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| G:\School Files\OFFICE\LOGOS\NAS Advanced\Advanced 19.jpg | Green Lane School Logo (in colour) | WBC crest colour_tcm33-58597Paul King  Headteacher  Joanne Mullineux  Deputy Headteacher |

18th December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Well, we’ve managed to make it to the end of a year that will never be forgotten! We all talk about events that have been important in our lives, we will certainly all share the experience of living through the 2020 pandemic. I am sure most of us have been directly affected by this pandemic. However we will come through this and move on.  
  
I do however want to encourage all parents and pupils not to mix outside of school over this Christmas. The majority of children and teenagers who catch COVID-19 only experience mild symptoms, or no symptoms at all, so it's important to keep contacts to a minimum. In previous half term holidays, there were reports of older school pupils mixing, which has then in turn contributed to an increase in cases in that age group, and further spread of the virus within communities. Socialising in groups also increases the risk of young people catching the virus but being asymptomatic, and therefore unknowingly passing on the virus on to elderly and vulnerable family members during the Christmas period.

We understand this is a difficult time for young people and they might not be celebrating Christmas with their wider family and friends as they normally would. However, encouraging parents and pupils to take advantage of technology instead of meeting in person may be the best way forward. Connecting regularly with friends and loved ones online, or over the phone, will help their mental health and wellbeing as well as minimising the risk of more coronavirus cases in Warrington.

You may have seen in the news, or on Social Media, that the Government has decided to phase the return of secondary school and college aged students to schools and colleges in the first week of January. This **does not apply** to those pupils who are classified as vulnerable. I just want to reassure you that the start of term arrangements for Green Lane remain unchanged and so we look forward to welcoming all pupils back on Monday 4th January 2021 and college students on 5th January.

You may also have seen that the Government have suggested that schools and colleges should run Covid testing sites on their premises from January. I will be discussing this matter with Headteacher and LA colleagues over the holiday period to determine a response. My prime concern will be the health and safety of our pupils, students and staff. We will however play our part in any Warrington-wide approach.

Can I end this letter by thanking you all for your patience and support over the past year – it has certainly helped in these challenging times, Can I also thank you all, on behalf of all staff, for your kindness and generosity. The good wishes, cards and gifts have been truly overwhelming. Thank you.

Finally can I wish you, on behalf of everyone at Green Lane and Woolston Sixth Form College, a joyous Christmas and peaceful New Year. Please stay safe over the holiday period.

Yours sincerely



Paul King

Headteacher