

KDS/JSS

16 July 2021



**Important update on Crestwood Community School Coronavirus position
16 July 2021**

Dear Parent/Carer,

You will have no doubt seen my letters to you all over the past six days regarding the number of COVID cases we have had in our year groups and across our campuses. The rapid increase in cases has been overwhelming for us as a school, as well as causing unrest for you, our families. The virus is spreading rapidly across the children with over 650 children now isolating. Today we have seen significant absences in remaining year groups with only 220 students attending both campuses, which I have attributed to parents wishing to keep their children safe at home.

I am deeply concerned about the wellbeing of your families, because even though some of you will be vaccinated, it does not stop you contracting the virus. In addition, I know from emails and conversations with you that many have planned holidays or activities with your families at the start of the summer holiday and therefore any periods of isolation imposed may ruin some of those, causing further upset in what has been an already difficult year. The disruption and risk it places on our community is significant and additionally, with restrictions lifting on Monday, there will likely be a further rise in cases within our community.

Last night, I had our fourteenth case reported, in six school days which has made us, as a Senior Team, reflect very seriously on where we are at this point in the term. After consultation with the Chair of Governors and the Local Authority we have made the difficult decision that from **the end of today, Friday 16th July, all students will not return to school, undertaking online learning, until the end of term at 12.45pm on Wednesday 21st July 2021.** As we have scheduled INSET days on Thursday 22nd and 23rd July, we feel that for the sake of 2.5 school days, being in school is a greater risk than being out. We feel that as a result of doing this, it will hopefully break any chains of transmission. Those eligible for Free School Meals will be receiving vouchers via email, as well as next week receiving the school holiday funding for meals.

I am sorry that we are unable to see the year out in our traditional ways, but I do hope you understand that we are acting within the best interests and safety for our children and their families. **Students who have been identified as close contacts will still need to isolate to the date of the end of isolation given in their letters.**

Crestwood Community School

Shakespeare Campus, Shakespeare Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 4FZ | Cherbourg Campus, Cherbourg Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 5EL

Email: adminoffice@crestwood.hants.sch.uk Tel: 023 8064 1232 Web: www.crestwood.hants.sch.uk



CRESTWOOD
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Staff will still be in school to help with any queries and will still be able to respond either by phone or by email. If you need to come into school to collect things please call the reception to arrange a safe visit. We will also, as tradition, hold “virtual assemblies” so students can see their “best bits” and the staff summer song on Wednesday 21st at 12.05pm.

We wish you all a very happy and healthy summer break and look forward so much to seeing your child back in school. Please remember that mass testing has been scheduled for Friday 3rd and Monday 6th September, with the commencement of school on Tuesday 7th September. Your child will have had an email sent to them with their appointment time.

Here’s hoping that our next academic year will be less eventful in so many ways! I am so proud of how you, our #Crestwoodfamily, has coped this year. It shows true resilience, commitment, and dedication, you should all be proud of what you have achieved. Thank you for all your amazing support throughout this school year, we cannot thank you enough.

Best wishes

Krista Dawkins
Headteacher

Crestwood Community School

Shakespeare Campus, Shakespeare Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 4FZ | Cherbourg Campus, Cherbourg Road,
Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 5EL

Email: adminoffice@crestwood.hants.sch.uk Tel: 023 8064 1232 Web: www.crestwood.hants.sch.uk