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Dear Parents and Carers

I want to start with some very positive news. Year 6 students were allocated to their September secondary schools at the start of March. Yet again we are full and have a waiting list for students for places into Year 7. Congratulations also goes to our Year 8 STEM Club students who won the local Climate Change Competition with their 'eco-friendly filter fish'. The school has been awarded a sum of money for the students to spend on a 'green' trip and the group will now be put forward to the final. Look out for their article in the next edition of Oaklands News at the end of term

Last week I wrote to you about the issues related to vaping, thank you for the support and feedback I have received in relation to this. A copy of that letter can be found on our website by following [this link](#). Issues relating to the use and harm of illicit substances are taught through our Science and PDC curriculum. Your continual vigilance at home contributes to children making healthy lifestyle choices. Thank you again for this.

Warmer weather

The warmer weather this week has come as a relief. We have opened the fields earlier than normal; students have welcomed this move.

Typically, once the fields open footfall through the canteen decreases and we see more students bringing in a packed lunch or drinks from home.

When selecting items for packed lunches please can parents be mindful of the following:

1. **No canned drinks or glass bottles whatsoever** (when these items are left on the field, the lawn mowers shred them and this creates Health and Safety risks)
2. **No high caffeine products** (Red Bull, Monster etc)
3. Plastic bottled drinks are permitted, soft or carbonated
4. Please encourage drinking of water and juice
5. Paper wrappings are easier to dispose of and recycle than foil or clingfilm

In class students are encouraged to drink water to remain hydrated. Water bottles can be filled at the water fountains and external water taps at break and lunch and not during lessons.

Year 11 and Year 13

Separate letters will be written to the parents and carers of Year 11 and 13 students, but in the meantime, I can confirm the following dates:

Year 11 last day in school for compulsory lessons	Wednesday 18 th May
Year 13 last day	Friday 20 th May
Exam Season starts	Monday 16 th May
End of Exam Season	Tuesday 28 th June
Exam Contingency Day	Wednesday 29 th June

(please also follow [this link](#) for a copy of our letter dated 8th March to Year 11 Parents and Carers)

Term dates for next academic year

I know that several parents have already enquired about the start dates for September 2022. Our planned return after the summer break will be:

Thursday 1 st September	Staff INSET Day
Friday 2 nd September	Staff INSET Day
Monday 5 th September	Phased Start for Year 7 and Sixth Form only
Tuesday 6 th September	Phased Start for Year 7, Year 11 and Sixth Form only
Wednesday 7 th September	All students in school

COVID-19

A number of parents have started to ask about future changes in the guidance for COVID-19. Currently the guidance remains as [published by the NHS](#) last month. I appreciate that the messages related to the management of COVID-19 are unclear, not helped by the home nations adopting different approaches. However, we do know that in England universal access to free COVID-19 testing is ending on 31st March. Adding to this Local Authorities are also taking different approaches. If you live in Portsmouth, from 1st April, each household will be eligible to claim up to one box of five tests per month from until June, while stocks last. More details are available on the [Council's website](#)

Finally, this Sunday is Mothering Sunday. Of course, Mothering Sunday is not primarily about the ups and downs of human parenthood. So, this weekend, we give thanks, not just for our Mums, but for all those people who have shown us something of the mothering love of God. We give thanks for the capacity in us all – women and men, adults and children, parents or not – to share this kind of love.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn
Headteacher