



**Oldbury Wells**

# INFORMATION SHEET

**December 2017**

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Dear Parents and Guardians

What an unusual few days we have had! I have several thank yous regarding last Friday in particular:

- Thank you to our students who vacated our site and cooperated impeccably in very difficult conditions.
- Thank you to the many parents who supported getting their children home (and other local children too in a few cases).
- Thank you to our catering staff who fed pupils before their departure.
- Thank you to the staff who transported pupils on foot and in vehicles to meet parents and buses.
- Thank you to all parents and guardians for your cooperation and support.

In my eleven years here at Oldbury Wells we have not seen such a torrent of snow! We made the decision to close at 9:15am but an orderly exit with *all* pupils accounted for, with *fourteen* transport providers cannot be done quickly!

Thank you also for your cooperation and support this week. I must admit I hate to close the school and the decision to close was not taken lightly. I hope you have read the reasoning on our school website. Again, thank you for your support.

## **YEAR 11 MOCKS**

The weather has made it necessary for us to postpone some of our Year 11 mock exams. Exams are being held today and tomorrow (Thursday and Friday 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December) and will continue when we return in January 2018. Year 11 pupils will have a copy of the timetable before they leave school today. We apologise to Year 11 students for this change of plan but we felt, on balance, with other pressures for Year 11 next term, it was better to get a few more exams completed. Teachers will obviously take the circumstances into account when marking those exams.

## **YEAR 7 / 8 REWARDS TRIP**

This will go ahead in January; Mr Barnsley will write to parents and guardians with further details.

## **CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY**

Friday, 15 December, the last day of term, is Christmas Jumper Day! We are raising money for Save the Children (£1 donation please). Pupils can wear a Christmas Jumper instead of a blazer if they wish to take part ... home decorated jumpers preferred! As last year, there will be prizes for the most impressive jumpers!

## **STAFFING NEWS**

We wish Matthew Thursfield (Geography and Geology) and Liz Reeves (Biology) well as they both leave us after fourteen years of excellent service to Oldbury Wells School. Mr Darren Davies will be joining us as a new teacher in the Science Department while Mr Alistair Elkins is our new teacher of Geography. Ms Thomas has made some timetable adjustments to accommodate these changes.

Colette Purdon and Sara Meadows, two of our long serving pastoral support staff, will also be leaving us this term. Their roles will be replaced by two experienced and suitable members of our current Learning Support staff, Lisa Bridgwater and Lucy Goodison. Miss Purdon and Mrs Meadows will be known to many of you for their dedicated support over the years and we wish them both well with their future endeavours.

*Reminder from the Kitchen staff, please remember to top up your child's account at [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com).*

*Alternatively students can top up with cash using the machine in the canteen.*

..... **AND FINALLY, SOME STOCKING FILLER SUGGESTIONS FROM OUR TEACHERS!**

Pocket dictionary/thesaurus (English), coloured biros/pencils, French and/or Spanish dictionary (MFL), set of graded pencils, tin of watercolours or small set of acrylics and water soluble pencil crayons (Art), shin pads and football boots (PE), scientific calculator (Maths), a set of cheap personal in-ear headphones for use in lessons (ICT), a mini atlas, flag book, wall poster map of the UK (Geography) and finally coloured highlighters (everyone)!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our school community a restful and enjoyable Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing everyone back in school for the spring term on Tuesday, 2 January 2018 (week 1). Please check the School Uniform Policy before purchasing any new shoes, coats etc over the Christmas period!

Best wishes to you all



Headteacher

**TERM DATES 2017/19**

Please make sure you always refer to our school website, [www.oldburywells.co.uk](http://www.oldburywells.co.uk), for accurate information on term dates and PD Days. A couple of websites have been set up to give this information for all schools nationally and, because they don't receive their data from us, it is often incorrect!

**Spring Term 2018**

**Starts** Tuesday, 2 January 2018 (return on Week 1)  
**Half-term** Monday, 19 – Friday 23 February 2018 inclusive (return on Week 2)  
**Ends** Thursday, 29 March 2018

**Summer Term 2018**

**Starts** Monday, 16 April 2018 (return on Week 1)  
**(Bank Holiday** Monday, 7 May 2018)  
**Half-term** Monday, 28 May - Friday, 1 June 2018 inclusive (return on Week 1)  
**Ends** Friday, 20 July 2018

NB: the following term dates, in italics, are for the academic year **2018/19**:

**Autumn Term 2018**

**Starts** *Wednesday, 5 September 2018 (return on Week 1)*  
**Half-term** *Monday, 29 – Friday 2 November 2018 inclusive*  
**Ends** *Friday, 21 December 2018*  
**PD Days:** *Monday and Tuesday, 3 and 4 September 2018 and Friday, 26 October 2018)*

**Spring Term 2019**

**Starts** *Monday, 7 January 2019*  
**Half-term** *Monday, 18 – Friday 22 February 2019 inclusive*  
**Ends** *Friday, 12 April 2019*  
**PD Day:** *Monday, 25 February 2019*

**Summer Term 2019**

**Starts** *Monday, 29 April 2019*  
**(Bank Holiday** *Monday, 6 May 2019)*  
**Half-term** *Monday, 27 May - Friday, 31 May 2019 inclusive*  
**Ends** *Friday, 19 July 2019*  
**PD Day:** *Monday, 22 July 2019*

Please note our new admin email address:

[admin@oldburywells.com](mailto:admin@oldburywells.com)