



INFORMATION SHEET

January 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians, a Happy New Year to you all

I would like to share some important news with you all at the start of this new year. Miss Thomas, our Principal Deputy, has decided to retire at the end of the academic year. Although this is some way off, and Miss Thomas will be working with us as usual until the end of August, we felt it appropriate to let you know.

Miss Thomas has asked me to include this personal message to you all:

“The start of this new term and New Year, 2020, brings with it an important personal announcement from myself. I would like to inform you all that, after 35 years of service to the school, I have decided to retire at the end of this academic year. I know many of our parents, like myself, have had a long association with the school and may be interested to know that during my 35 years I calculate that approximately 6,500 pupils have walked through the corridors and sat in the assembly halls! Indeed, a good number of those pupils have become our next parents. Although I will be retiring from my school leadership duties, there will be no doubt that I will remain very passionate and committed to the education of young people at Oldbury Wells and hence plan to continue working for the school and the Trust; all be it in a different capacity from September 2020 onwards”.

I wish to take this early opportunity to thank Miss Thomas for her years of dedicated service. We have all benefited from stability in our leadership at Oldbury Wells, in terms of both senior staff and middle leaders. As you will know, the current arrangement at Oldbury Wells School is that I retain overall headship duties, whilst being supported specifically by Miss Thomas. Miss Thomas has day to day charge of the school in my absence and carries out a number of specific headship duties too. In effect, at the present time, we work as if we have two headteachers. This arrangement is working well and it will continue without any changes until the end of the summer term.

The following is a letter to you from the Trustees and Governors of Oldbury Wells School. In their letter, they have explained how they plan to appoint a new postholder as Miss Thomas's replacement. We will be explaining these changes to our students this week.

Best wishes to you all

As parents will know, we have had some changes over the years to our Trust which has grown to be a south Shropshire family of 6 schools and has now changed its name to TrustEd Schools' Partnership. Our Trust partnership work has naturally increased as our schools have increased in number.

You will know that Miss Thomas is sadly retiring at the end of the summer term. This is after 35 years of dedicated and excellent service to our school. The rest of the senior management team at Oldbury Wells will remain in post, including, of course, Mrs Godden as our Executive Headteacher. As Governors we have decided to support Mrs Godden's work as the executive leader of our Trust, by replacing the vacancy left by Miss Thomas's retirement. We are therefore advertising to appoint a Headteacher to lead our school, under Mrs Godden's stewardship as our executive leader.

This is an exciting appointment for us, bringing the opportunity to work with a new school leader whilst retaining the experience and capability of Mrs Godden and the rest of our senior team.

The Headteacher position has been advertised nationally this week so we can draw on the widest field possible. We are advertising for this important post early so that we give ourselves as much time as we can in the process. We will of course keep you properly informed of our decisions as things move forward.

Allen Crawford Thomas
Chair of Oldbury Wells Local Governing Body and Trustee

Carbon Footprint

The Governors within our Trust are considering how we, as a group of schools, respond to the Climate Change Agenda. This is an agenda we cannot afford not to take seriously and during this next term we will be involving pupils in debate and discussion as to how the school should play its part in reducing the carbon footprint.

Just in case!

As January weather can be unpredictable, we felt it best to remind you of our **Extreme Weather Procedures!**

We occasionally need to close the school when extreme weather arrives, it can occur in two ways:

1. If extreme weather arrives overnight, the decision whether to open the school will be made in liaison with our site staff and the bus companies. In the event that the school will be closed for the day, a notice will be posted on the school website in addition to going out through BBC Radio Shropshire (96FM) and our texting service.

If no announcement is made, the school will be open. I am sure you will understand that our catchment is wide and diverse and any decision made about closure is in the interests of the health and safety of *all* of our students.

2. If extreme weather arrives during the day, the need to get children to their home villages and towns becomes pretty immediate. We very much take the advice of the bus companies over this - they are the ones out on the roads and aware of the road conditions and who will be responsible for getting the children home safely. As a large secondary school, in the event of a sudden need to close school, we will notify you via a posting on the school website and a message from our texting service*. BBC Radio Shropshire (96FM) and the local authority will also be informed.

We would be grateful if all parents could ensure that their children know what to do if we need to send them home early, with very little notice and while working parents may still be away from home - it would be useful if this can be discussed and agreed with your children. Often a relative, friend or neighbour can be called upon to help out until you are able to return home but this, of course, needs to be clarified in advance and your children made aware of where they should go.

*NB, our texting service is, of course, only as good as the information it contains, please ensure that we are provided with notification of any changes in your contact details.

TERM DATES

Please make sure you always refer to our school website, www.oldburywells.com, 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 2020

Starts	Tuesday, 7 January 2020 (week 2)
Half-term	Monday, 17 – Friday 21 February 2020 inclusive (return week 2)
Ends	Thursday, 2 April 2020
PD Days:	Monday, 6 January 2020 and Friday, 3 April 2020

Summer Term 2020

Starts	Monday, 20 April 2020 (week 2)
Bank Holiday	Friday, 8 May 2020
Half-term	Monday, 25 - Friday, 29 May 2020 inclusive (return week 1)
Ends	Friday, 17 July 2020

Autumn Term 2020

Starts	Wednesday, 2 September 2020: Y7, Y12 Thursday, 3 September 2020: Y8, Y9, Y10, Y11 & Y13
Half-term	Monday, 26 – Friday, 30 October 2020 inclusive
Ends	Friday, 18 December 2020
PD Days	Tuesday, 1 September 2020, Friday, 23 October 2020

