

EMWL2.12.22

Dear parent,

I would like to thank everybody who has made donations to our food and toy appals over the last few weeks. Your generosity has been astounding, and I am sure it will bring a lot of joy to many people over Christmas.

Next Friday, (9 December) is our annual Christmas Kindness Day. All students can donate £1 to wear a Christmas jumper or another Christmas themed outfit (paid in cash on the day) as we are raising money for St Rocco's Hospice. Each year group will complete the Elf Run (Elf hats will be provided), then afterwards they will get a free hot chocolate and have a chance to buy Christmas goodies from the House and College stalls. They will also be able to have a go on the tombola if they want to and there will be sponge the teacher at lunchtime (3 throws for £1) – I took a turn in the stocks last year and the water was freezing! We will add all our money from the run and the stalls to this link <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/birchwoodcommunityhighschool>, if you would like to make an extra donation you can do so on the link too.

On the first day back after the Christmas break, Tuesday 3 January 2023 school will start for students at 09.15 and they will go straight to period 1 instead of attending form time. Breakfast club will still be open as usual for students to attend and the school gates will open at 09.00 for all year groups.

Or school attendance is still an area of concern for me, we are currently at 91% for the whole school this year, which is a lot of lost learning time. We will be making some changes to our attendance procedures in January, specifically around how work is caught up when students have been absent, but you will receive a separate more detailed letter detailing any changes before the Christmas break.

Students appear to be purchasing the 'Prime' drinks and bringing them into school. We are aware that these are extremely popular, and quite hard to get hold of. As this is something not sold in school, it should not be brought in. In addition to being an energy drink (which are not allowed in school), they are also causing some issues between students at lunch time which will be avoided if they were not brought in. From Monday, these drinks will be confiscated, and not returned, as per our behaviour policy. We appreciate your support with this.

We will also be having a big focus on reading for pleasure and encouraging our students to develop their reading habits after the holidays. We will be asking all students to ensure they have a book that they are currently reading with them at all times in school, and we will also be setting a standard homework every day for every student to complete at least 30 mins of reading for pleasure in their own time. I know a lot of our students read a lot more than this anyway, but we want to make sure that all students know and value the importance of reading. I hope you have a good weekend when it comes.

Best wishes and take care,



Emma Mills

Dates and information.

6-8 December 2022 Annie Jr. School Show 7pm <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/annie-jr-tickets-457027390227>

9 December Christmas Kindness Day

13 December 2022 Christmas Lunch £2.50 for our menu of festive fayre.

16 December 2022 School will close to students at 12.30pm

3 January 2023 School reopens for Students at **9.15am**

If you child is absent:

Please remember to record your child's absence on class charts before 9.00am each day.

If your child has an appointment, please put this information on class charts too