



Dear Parent/Carers,

I hope you have had a relaxing and enjoyable break. **School reopens for all students at 8.55am (Year 7-8) and 9am (Year 9-11) on Thursday 5th January.**

As young people return to school I have been asked to share with you the following information from the UK Health Security Agency:

Following simple steps can help protect children, minimise the spread of illness in education and childcare settings and protect wider communities.

Flu and coronavirus (COVID-19) are currently circulating at high levels and are likely to continue to increase in coming weeks. High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also continue to be reported.

*It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. **If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.***

Helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, so practice regular handwashing at home with soap and warm water. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.

Adults should also try to stay home when unwell and if you do have to go out, wear a face covering. When unwell don't visit healthcare settings or visit vulnerable people unless urgent.

Remember that flu vaccination is still available for all eligible groups and is the best protection against the virus. We have seen good uptake in older age groups but vaccination among young children remains low. Flu can be very unpleasant and, in some cases, can lead to more serious illness. Getting your child vaccinated protects them and others they come into contact with, and it's still not too late.

The School-Aged Immunisation Team will be visiting school next week to vaccinate students in Year 7-9 against flu **where parents have completed the online consent form in advance**. We strongly encourage you to take up this opportunity as it protects your child and also our wider community.

Our COVID-19/Infectious illness measures remain in place in line with public health guidance and are available on our website: <https://aldermanwhite.school/parents-and-students/covid19-info>

Please see the calendar on our website for key dates: <https://aldermanwhite.school/parents-and-students/calendar>

We look forward to welcoming your child back to school and working with you again this term.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs A Mellors
Headteacher