



20 December 2021

Dear friends,

TOMORROW'S TROUBLES, TODAY'S PEACE

As we prepare for another Christmas overshadowed by the coronavirus pandemic, I am reminded of a powerful quote from American Christian rock musician, Randy Armstrong: "Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles. It takes away today's peace."

Speculation about new restrictions, lockdowns and school closures can only serve to cause alarm. In truth, there remain very high levels of uncertainty about the impact of the Omicron variant of concern. Be reassured that our collective priority continues to be to minimise disruption to education and ensure, where possible, learners continue to receive in-person learning, as well as protecting school staff and learners.

Uncertainty is the cause of much worry for young people who, themselves, have already experienced extraordinary levels of disruption to their learning and development. We may not yet know what the new term will bring but we do know that we will get through it together. After all, in the face of uncertainty, there is nothing wrong with hope. Hope is the #TeamTeilo way.

Christmas is the celebration of light coming into the world to overcome darkness. The birth of Jesus Christ reveals God reaching into the darkness and defeating it through embracing our sufferings and struggles, anxieties and fears. We see that light in the work of Puffins, our food pantry, delivering festive hampers and gifts to vulnerable families. We see that light in the giving of strangers, who have provided over £1,500 through local churches to support the poorest in our community. We see that light in the eyes of children, immersed in our breathtaking nativity experience. We see that light in the strained muscles of pupils, who have cycled the distance from Cardiff to Kabul to raise over £3,500 for Afghan refugees educated in our school. And we see that light in smiles of our new friends: Manila, Sana, Narwen, Fatima, Subhan, Qudrat, Zaki, Sajad, Adnan, Maryam, Zinat, Ahsan, Zohra, Samira, Haroon, Tawfiq, Homira, Palwasha, Rafi, Nasir, Mahdi and Bilal.

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it!

Omicron

Jeremy Miles MS, Minister for Education, wrote to Headteachers at the end of term to set out his expectations for January 2022. He has asked, as a precautionary approach, that we now plan mitigations based on the 'very high' risk level. Therefore, all schools have been provided with two planning days at the start of the new spring term, allowing time to assess staffing capacity and put the necessary measures in place to support the return of learners. As St

Teilo's had two INSET days already planned, there is no change to the return date for students. For you and your child, this means:

- **School reopens to all on Thursday 6 January 2022;**
- **Face coverings will continue to be worn when inside the building;**
- **Lateral flow testing will be strongly advised three times per week; and**
- **All other existing mitigations, such as contact groups, remain in place.**

Please be alert to sudden changes in arrangements as this is a fast-evolving situation. You can find a copy of the Minister's written statement here: <https://gov.wales/written-statement-school-and-colleges-operational-arrangements-january-2022>

Keeping in touch

You can stay up to date with announcements by:

- Visiting www.stteilos.com/news
- Following us on twitter [@stteilos](https://twitter.com/stteilos)
- Following us on Instagram [@stteiloshighschool](https://www.instagram.com/stteiloshighschool)
- Receiving SMS text messages by keeping your mobile number up to date.

Remember that staff are unlikely to be available without notice in person or by telephone (they are busy working with children). Email is by far the most effective way to contact us!

- Year 7: Mrs Pitt (r.pitt@stteilos.com) with Mr Miah and Miss Lia
- Year 8: Mrs Pitt (r.pitt@stteilos.com) with Mr Yates and Mrs Whyman
- Year 9: Mrs Phillips (j.phillips@stteilos.com) with Mr Barnes and Mrs Shardlow
- Year 10: Mrs Phillips (j.phillips@stteilos.com) with Mrs Rees and Mr Yendell
- Year 11: Miss Hallett (k.hallett@stteilos.com) with Mrs Johnson and Mr Walker
- Years 12 and 13: Mrs Owen (e.owen@stteilos.com) with Mrs Gallo.

You are also invited to contact me directly by emailing headteacher@stteilos.com.

In light of the developing public health picture, please do not attend the school without an appointment. Please also exercise patience and kindness when communicating with staff; our priority is your child's wellbeing and learning and our resources are focussed entirely on this.

I shall contact you again in the New Year with an update regarding the reopening of schools and the details of new arrangements to keep children safe, happy and learning.

*“To a troubled world, peace from Christ.
To a searching world, love from Christ.
To a waiting world, hope from Christ.”*

With every blessing for a joy-filled Christmas,

Mr I Loynd
Headteacher