



Castledon School

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Dear Parent/Carer

9th October 2020

As we end another great week at school, I wanted to say how impressive the pupils have been with establishing new routines and procedures. I am very proud of all our learners for their understanding and responsibility of our new way of working.

Half term holidays are not far away and there are a few key messages I wanted share with you:

Uniform (KS1-4) – Firstly, I would like to start with an apology. In my letter to parents on 4th September, I advised that we were intending on purchasing a pair of track pants for KS3 and KS4 learners from our school wear provider Emblem. Due to the exceptional COVID-19 situation, Emblem are just not able to source the track pants we ordered as they come from overseas. Whilst this was our best intention, sadly this means we are not able to purchase a pair for each KS3/4 learner. Now that the days are more chilly and PE is still held outside whenever possible, you may provide your child with a pair of track bottoms, in a dark plain colour such as navy or black.

I would like to thank you for your continued support of our new uniform. Learners look fantastic in their new clothing and I can see they have pride in their appearance and how they represent the school. There are a few items that I have seen that are not permitted, so please find attached a full list of what your child is required to wear. In particular, for the primary phase, the blue jumper is only available from Emblem, our school wear provider as it will have the Castledon logo on it. I am in regular contact with Emblem regarding orders and stock availability and I know that some families are still waiting on items. For the short term, plain jumpers are acceptable and equally old uniform is also acceptable as we know there are global issues with supply due to COVID-19.

sQuid – We experienced some technical difficulties at the start of the academic year with our online payment service sQuid. Some pupils were not able to access the lunch menu and some families in receipt of free school meals were not able to order using the app or online for quite a few days. My sincere apologies if you were affected by this issue. I am assured by sQuid that all accounts are now working correctly, however if you do still have any difficulties, please contact a member of our Family Inclusion Team, option 2 when telephoning the main school number 01268 761252 and they will be able to help.

Term dates - Our term dates have now been agreed for the 2021 – 2022 academic year and will be issued to parents on Monday. Lets hope by then life is back to a more normal feel and holidays can once again be taken. It is important that all holidays are taken during the holiday periods as learners who attend regularly are more connected with their learning, develop important social skills and friendships and are significantly improving their chances of gaining the best grades they can for a positive future. Your support in maintaining good levels of attendance is very much appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

S Holliday

Simon Holliday
Headteacher