

Subject line: School holidays extended to Jan 11th, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

I hope that this email finds you all well and that you have enjoyed the Christmas holidays so far. This email is specifically for our overseas parents who may have questions or concerns around the increased incidence of Covid-19 infections globally this past week, and how it impacts on school life. A separate email giving more detail has been sent to all parents, so apologies for any duplication in information.

Our government has mandated that Ireland will return to Level 5 restrictions for one month from today, and have determined that the school holidays are to be extended by 3 days to reopen instead on Monday, January 11th, 2020. This short extension gives the school community 10 days from now to limit our contacts, enabling us return to school healthy and safely on January 11th.

[Taoiseach Micheál Martin Press Statement in full 30/12/20](#)

Excerpt from Taoiseach's Press Statement

'All public health analysis is showing that schools are safe, and schools will reopen, but slightly delayed to 11th January. By extending the break by 3 days the new restrictions I am announcing this evening will be in place for more than 10 days when schools open. Families will have had an opportunity to ensure that their contacts are minimised before children return to school.'

[Minister for Education Norma Foley Press Statement in full 30/12/20](#)

Excerpt from Minister for Education's Press Statement 30/12/20

'The Christmas school break will be extended for three additional days to 11 January. This will allow every member of the school community to follow public health advice closely and minimise their contacts before children return to school.'

If your child has already returned to Ireland to the KH Camp or is in transit, please be assured that the camp will continue as planned with your child's health, safety and wellbeing our priority. Our caring and committed staff will continue to look after your child until classes resume.

If your child is booked in to stay with a host family, we recommend that you contact your agent/guardian directly to ensure that their continuity of care remains in place. If your child wishes to return to KH on January 6th, as previously arranged, they can still do, provided they submit a negative PCR test, taken in Ireland at least 5 days after arrival.

As the extension of the school holidays is only 2 days longer than planned (as Wednesday was a teacher training day), we recommend that students planning to return to Ireland for the KH Camp or to a host family continue to do so. It gives the students the opportunity to quarantine safely and receive their PCR tests in time to resume school. If they do not return at the same time as the other students, we cannot guarantee the same quarantine or return to school arrangements that are currently in place.

However if your child is experiencing travel delays there is a degree of flexibility, but we ask that you continue to keep us informed of any changes immediately. Please continue to email overseastravel@thekingshospital.ie so a team member can keep track of your communication.

We remain committed to providing the all-round, holistic education that KH is proud of, despite the challenges of the pandemic, and continue to be inspired, by the resilience and enthusiasm of our students as we look forward, with hope, to a brighter 2021.

Yours,

Mark Ronan
Headmaster / Principal