



Kirkburton Middle School

Turnshaw Avenue
Kirkburton
Huddersfield
HD8 0TJ

Telephone: 01484 222737

Headteacher: Mr C Taylor

Email: office@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk
Web: <http://www.kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk>

9th December 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

Yesterday afternoon we received notification from the DfE relating to contact tracing for pupils over the Christmas period. You may also have seen information relating to this reported in the press last night. As I am sure you will be aware, schools have been responsible for the contact tracing of pupils in school should a positive case arise. School leaders have worked hard to ensure this process has continued across weekends, evenings and holidays in order to keep our school populations safe. However, the DfE have recognised that this responsibility cannot continue across the Christmas break when close contacts will not have been on school site. Public Health England has agreed a 6 day window after the final day of teaching in which schools are asked to remain contactable so they can assist with contact tracing where necessary. As this will include Christmas eve for those schools breaking up next Friday, the government has suggested that schools may wish to take next Friday as an INSET day in order to make December 23rd the last day school leaders are required to be available for contact tracing.

At Kirkburton we have taken the decision not to change our end of term arrangements. We feel it is unfair on families to announce a change like this with only seven school days notice. Additionally, our INSET days are planned at the start of the year and are based around specific school improvement priorities relevant to the time of year when they are scheduled.

Please be aware that:

- We will close as normal on Friday 18th December
- You should continue to contact us, if your child develops symptoms on or before Sunday 20th December and subsequently tests positive for coronavirus. The contact address is: covid@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk
- School leaders will check emails once per day up until Thursday 24th December. After this date, you do not need to notify us unless your child will not be back in January – in which case you should report absence in the normal way.
- Should school receive a report of a positive result on or before Thursday 24th December, we will continue to contact trace so may advise families of the need to self-isolate should your child be a close contact.



I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you for your support over the last term – especially in recent weeks. The onset of the vaccination programme brings us great optimism regarding the return to normality in the future. In the meantime, we are very grateful for your support in ensuring we all abide by the guidance which enables us to limit the risk of transmission. I am sure we are all acutely aware of the need to continue to do this over the coming days as we approach the Christmas break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Taylor', written in a cursive style.

Mr Taylor
Headteacher