



**Head Teacher: Ms Gill Howard**

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14<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

PLEASE READ – IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE HOLIDAY

ACTION IN THE EVENT A **POSITIVE COVID CASE** IS IDENTIFIED DURING THE WEEK LEADING UP TO CHRISTMAS (SATURDAY 19 – THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER 2020).

Following discussions between the Department for Education and Public Health England, it has been decided that schools will need to be available for contact tracing from 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

This means that any pupil or member of staff who has a **positive Covid Test**, needs to notify the school in the run up to Christmas. This will assist with NHS Test and Trace.

For this period (19<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> December), please can you email our Covid dedicated email:

**[covid@mountjoy.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:covid@mountjoy.dorset.sch.uk)**

or text or ring our Covid line and leave a message:

**07775 317017**

I will monitor the Covid account each morning at 10.00am up to and including the 24<sup>th</sup> December.

This will enable me to inform anyone who has come into close contact with an infected person so they can self-isolate for 14 days from the last contact. If your child is identified as a close contact, I will get a message to you and send a letter. Guidance on self-isolation can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/nhs-test-and-trace-if-youve-been-in-contact-with-a-person-who-has-coronavirus/>

NHS needs to know the close contacts of the positive case in the 48 hours prior to the start of symptoms. This would mean that if your child developed symptoms on **Saturday 19 or Sunday 20 December 2020** you must organise for them to have a test. You can do this online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

If the result comes back positive, then you must inform the school so we can start the process and get information to others as quickly as possible. **If the test comes back as negative, you do not need to inform school.**

Should your child develop symptoms from Monday 21 December until the start of term on Tuesday 5 January you should get a test and if it is positive follow the advice from Test and Trace who will contact you. You do not need to inform school as this is after the 48-hour period mentioned earlier.

The reason this is in place until the 24 December is so you can get the test done and the result back.

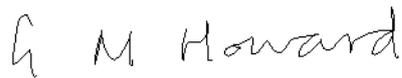
Below is a quick summary of the Covid symptoms:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

Thank you for keeping everyone safe during these difficult times. I wish you and your loved ones well.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G M Howard". The letters are cursive and connected.

Gill Howard