

9 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

You may be aware that Public Health England yesterday agreed a 6-day window after the final day of teaching in which schools are asked to remain contactable so we can continue to be responsible for contact tracing where necessary. This will allow enough time for positive coronavirus (COVID-19) cases to be identified and confirmed by a test and for relevant contacts in our school to be traced and contacted. Beyond 6 days after the final day of teaching, we are not asked to play a role in any further contact tracing over the Christmas break.

You may also be aware that the Department for Education has informed schools that we may make Friday, 18 December one of our INSET days in order to ensure we do not need to be involved with contact tracing over Christmas Eve. However, if we choose to do this, the time must be made up at another point in the academic year or we may have to bring forward the start of term in January and return a day earlier.

As a result, I write to inform you that there will be **no change to our current end of term arrangements, and we will close for the Christmas break on Friday, 18 December as planned.**

However, please note the following in terms of arrangements for reporting positive cases to us over the Christmas period:

- Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
- For the first 6 days after teaching ends (up to and including Thurs, 24 December), if we are informed of a pupil or staff member testing positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, we will continue to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation to others, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.
- Beyond 24 December, we are not asked to remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace after this date.

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- Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 6 days following the end of term, resulting in them not being able to return to school on Mon, 4 January 2021, please contact school in the usual way and leave a message to inform us of the detail.

As ever, we sincerely hope that we will not need to contact anyone to inform them of the need to self-isolate over the Christmas period, but please do bear with us in our duty of care to let you know – even if this means being contacted on Christmas Eve!

For now, then, my very best wishes to all for a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Enjoy the festive period.

Yours faithfully



Mr M Eastham
Headteacher