



Mrs S Pennington: Head Teacher
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RE: Contact Tracing Over Christmas Holidays

Dear Parents and Carers

As you know, unfortunately Covid does not stop in the holidays and the school still has a responsibility to trace contacts of children and members of staff who have tested positive. You may be aware that yesterday the government gave schools the option to alter term dates and end this term on Thursday 17th December. This is so that schools would not have to contact trace on Christmas Eve - we are asked to do this for 6 days after the last day after the final day of teaching (see government guidance below). This is to allow for up to 48 hours since last being in school plus 4 days being the maximum reasonable time for receiving a positive test result. Ending the term a day earlier would also mean the children would need to return a day earlier on Monday 4th January.

Given the very short notice given for school and parents, I have decided to make **no changes to the school term dates.**

To confirm, the last day of this term will be Friday 18th December (finishing at lunchtime) and children will be returning on Tuesday 5th January, as originally planned.

If my child tests positive for Covid-19 in the holidays should I contact school?

It depends on when they developed symptoms – please read the following guidance so that you know when you should contact school:

- 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, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.
- School staff are not asked to remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than 6 days after the final day of teaching. Where a school's last teaching day is on Thursday 17 December, there should be no pupil contact tracing asks beyond Wednesday 23 December.

How should I contact school if my child tests positive?

Use the following number to text your child's name and class and forward their test result.

07971718622

On receiving this text, I contact you so that details can be confirmed with Public Health England and any necessary contact tracing can take place.

I will inform parents of pupils who may be close or proximal contacts through standard letters issued by PHE. I will also inform any staff who may also have become contacts.

Yours faithfully
Mrs Pennington

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