

9 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We have a daily email from the Department of Education (DFE) and it often brings joy to me, none more so than today. We are being asked to share the following information with you and I am taking the information in its entirety from the DFE's message to the school today as I am sure that any phone call from me asking you to self-isolate on Christmas Eve is likely to go down like a lead balloon.

'We recommend all schools ensure staff, parents and carers are aware of the following information and relevant arrangements regarding positive cases in the holidays:

- 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.

DFE – Coronavirus – daily update 8 December 2020'

If necessary I will come in to school and follow up on contacts, and I will call you. Believe me when I say to you, I can think of nothing worse than ruining someone's Christmas, I hope it doesn't come to this for anyone staff, student or parent – if it does, I can only apologise for being the bearer of bad news.

Equally the DFE have suggested that we add in an INSET day to the last day of term, the 18th. This will mean that the last possible day I will have to call you will move from Christmas Eve back to the 23rd. **We will add in the INSET day and move the early finish to Thursday 17 December 2020 and hope that we all get to spend Christmas with our families.**

Students will not come to school on FRIDAY 18 December 2020 and school will finish at 12.30 on THURSDAY 17 December 2020.

Yours sincerely



Mr K Flanagan
Headteacher