

IMPORTANT LETTER

Thursday 17th December 2020

Arrangements for Christmas reporting of positive COVID-19 test results

Thank you all for your on-going cooperation and support this school year as we continue to respond to the challenges of COVID-19. As the Autumn Term comes to an end, we are asking you to help us continue to keep children and families safe over the Christmas holidays.

This letter will cover:

1. School contact tracing over the holidays and what you need to do
2. What to do if your child or family member gets symptoms or tests positive over the holidays
3. Safe return in January

1. School contact tracing over the Christmas Holidays

You will know that schools have been playing a vital role in contact-tracing. If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, we review who the person/child has been in close contact with while at school and primarily, ask their class bubble to isolate. This helps to protect the remainder of the school community, your families and the wider public.

The Department for Education has said that schools must continue to support contact tracing over the break. This is so that we can identify any close contacts of positive cases who were in school while infectious and where test results come back after term ends. **Your reporting of positive test results remains vital to our contact-tracing efforts. As families come together for Christmas celebrations, this will minimise the risk of spreading the virus to your potentially vulnerable relatives.**

- If your child gets a positive COVID test result over the break please email both Tania and me immediately (tania@eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk and head@eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk) with the following information:
- Name of child
 - Did the child have symptoms or not?
 - What date did symptoms start? (this can be any feeling of being unwell, not just the three COVID symptoms)
 - Date that test swab was taken
 - Date child was last in school
 - Has anyone else been unwell with COVID in your household?
 - Your contact phone number in case more information is needed

We may then need to contact class members if symptoms overlap with the last few days of term.

2. What to do if your child or family member gets symptoms or tests positive over the holidays

Symptoms of COVID-19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

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- **If anyone in your home develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should get tested and must remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared.**
- All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days.
- The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.
- No one else needs to get tested unless they have symptoms of COVID-19.
- **Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.** Household members staying at home for 10 days helps stop the virus spreading to others in the community
- You should not have visitors to the home if anyone in the household is self-isolating

Safe return in January

We look forward to welcoming children back to school for the start of Spring Term but it remains a priority that we keep the school community safe. **Please do not send your children back to school if they should be self-isolating for any reason.** Reasons that your child should be isolating include:

- Your child has symptoms of coronavirus or has tested positive and has not yet completed their 10 day self-isolation period;
- A member of your child's household (e.g. mum, dad, sibling) has developed symptoms of coronavirus or tested positive and your child has not yet completed their 10 day self-isolation period;
- You/your child have been contacted by NHS Test and Trace or the School because your child is the contact of someone who tested positive for coronavirus and your child has not yet completed their 10 day self-isolation period;
- Your child should be in quarantine on return from travel abroad. The 10-day period is counted from the day after you leave a non-exempt country. From 15 December 2020 you will be able to take a COVID-19 test with a private test provider to see if you can end self-isolation early. Read more about the [Test to Release for international travel scheme](#). We will need to see proof of negative tests results before returning to school before the quarantine period is up.

If your child is meant to be isolating at the start of Spring Term, please keep them at home and inform the school office.

Phew! Everything crossed that we all stay well and are all able to enjoy the break!

It has, despite everything, been a really lovely term. Staff feel blessed that our working lives have been so full of life and human contact. Children are such brilliant company and they really have kept our spirits up. There has been lots to celebrate from the wonderful Festive Fair (takings now at £9000!), to maths and engineering winners and the appointment of the new EP leaders. We've settled into all our new routines and even managed a few trips out!

If we don't count the 4 classes who had to isolate as *absence*, our attendance is an amazing 98.1% - our best ever.

We hope to see you ALL fit, rested and raring to go on Tuesday 5th January at 9am!

With best wishes

Kate Flood