



Diocese of Portsmouth

ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

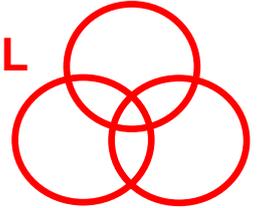
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www.st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs M Delany-White



9th December 2020

Dear Parents,

During yesterday afternoon headteachers received the following information from the Department for Education:

End of term planning

We know that school and further education leaders, teachers and staff, as well as nurseries and childminders, have worked tirelessly over the last term. This has included their important role in contact tracing, to help in the national effort to limit the spread of the virus. We are aware that this has led to additional work over weekends and holidays and we are incredibly grateful for this.

We recognise the challenges of this responsibility at the end of term. Public Health England has agreed a 6 day window after the final day of teaching in which schools and further education providers are asked to remain contactable so they can assist with 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 the education setting to be traced. We are clear that beyond 6 days after the final day of teaching, school and further education staff are not asked to play a role in any contact tracing. It is also likely that the need to support the tracing process will reduce dramatically over the course of the 6 days as the majority of cases should be identified earlier in the week.

End of term – advice for schools

To ensure that staff get the time off they need and deserve, schools may wish to use an INSET day, making Friday 18 December a non-teaching day and using the day for staff training, which could be delivered online.

In all circumstances, teaching time must be made up at another point in the academic year. You should not limit attendance at school before Friday 18 December. It remains vital for all children to be in school up to the last day of teaching.

We recognise this communication has arrived with schools late in the term but would ask schools to be as helpful to parents as they can by sharing any changes to end of term arrangements as soon as possible, particularly where schools choose to make Friday 18 December a non-teaching day. Your support with this is appreciated.





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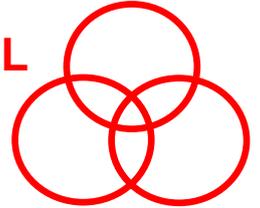
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We recommend all schools ensure staff, parents and carers are aware of the following information and relevant arrangements regarding positive cases in the holidays:

- *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.*

For the first 6 days after the end of term, schools are not asked to be on-call at all times. Staff responsible for contact tracing may designate a limited period in the day to receive notification of positive cases and advise close contacts to self-isolate (this can be done by text or email). The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline and PHE advice service are available to support with any queries you have about positive cases in your school.

Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 6 days following the end of term, schools do not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term.

What this means for St Edmund's:

We will now finish teaching next **Thursday 17th December**. We will move the planned INSET day from Monday 7th June 2021 to Friday 18th December so that the children will still be taught the statutory 190 school days during the academic year. Therefore, **school will be closed to all pupils on Friday 18th December**. I apologise for the short notice to parents and staff but we only received this information from the DfE on Tuesday afternoon.

I will be available to assist with track and trace if a member of our school community **develops symptoms on Friday 18th or Saturday 19th December** (i.e. up to 48 hours after the last teaching day) and subsequently receives a positive test result.





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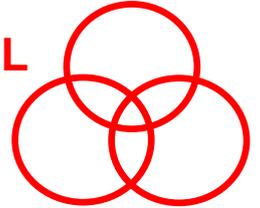
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If your child develops symptoms after the end of Saturday 20th December I would not need to be told, even if they went on to have a positive test result.

If a child or member of staff tests positive having had symptoms on Friday 18th or Saturday 19th December, I need to be informed so that I can contact all children and staff within the bubble so that they can begin to self-isolate for the required 14 days. I will send out a Parent Mail or email to all concerned so please do check for messages from school up to the end of Wednesday 23rd December.

To inform me of a positive test result received by Wednesday 23rd December please email the school office. We will check the office emails each morning between 9-11am. If a positive test result occurs after Wednesday 23rd December, I do not need to be informed but rather you should contact NHS Test and Trace instead.

Remember our final day, which is now **Thursday 17th December**, is the day your child may wear their Christmas jumper if they would like to.

If you have any queries about this, please contact me via the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Delany-White

Headteacher

