



*St Francis of Assisi
Church of England Primary School
"Live, love and learn together in the light of Christ."*

Thursday 10th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please see below for a statement from the Trust regarding end of term arrangements:

You will have heard in the media that schools have been given the option to make 18th December an INSET day. This has been proposed by DfE for several reasons, one being that staff, "get the time off they need and deserve" and also to reduce the length of time into the holidays that staff need to be available to support the Test and Trace process. We have consulted with our Headteachers and considered carefully the impact such a decision would have on all our school communities and particularly, parents and carers, who would have to make childcare arrangements at short notice if we were to finish on 17th December.

The Trust has ultimately decided that all schools will remain open on 18th December and that Headteachers and myself will continue to respond to Test and Trace up to and including Christmas Eve.

This has been a long and testing term and I know that you would want to join me in thanking our Headteachers and their staff for all their hard work supporting and teaching pupils throughout this period, despite the challenges the restrictions have presented.

*I hope you all have a Happy Christmas as we all look to a better New Year.
Damian Chubb (CEO)*

During the Autumn Term, school has assumed an important role as part of the contact tracing service in an effort to assist the national effort to limit the spread of the virus which has led to additional workload over weekends and during holidays. Public Health England has now agreed a six day window during which school will remain responsible and contactable 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 the education setting to be traced. This would mean that potentially staff and children may be instructed to self-isolate in this period.

What does this mean for you?

Parents need to contact school directly following a positive test result for COVID 19 dated between 19th – 24th December. It would also be helpful if you contact me if you are taking a test too. We will then follow the current school procedure of gathering background information, risk assessing all potential contacts and advising self-isolation accordingly. If you are in the unfortunate position of receiving a positive result for your child within these dates, please **do not use the general school email address** but instead email me directly at louise.probets@stfrancispri.dalesmat.org. I will be checking my email regularly throughout the day up to and including 24th December and I will try to get back to you as soon as possible. Please supply me with contact details, date the symptoms started, what they were, date of test and date of result.

W: www.stfrancis.dalesmat.org E: admin@stfrancispri.dalesmat.org T: 01642 769942

St Francis of Assisi C of E Primary School | Lowfields Avenue | Ingleby Barwick | Stockton-on-Tees | TS17 5GA

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To reduce the risk of families and staff needing to isolate over the Christmas holiday, please ensure that you are remaining vigilant both during and outside the school day. You can do this by:

- Being vigilant if any symptoms arise.
- Ensuring that any member of the family who displays symptoms, remains at home and arrangements should be made for them to be tested. **At that time, all other household members must also stay at home, not go to work, school or public areas, even for exercise.**
- Ensuring that any member of the family with symptoms is isolated from the rest of the family wherever possible.
- Booking a test and informing the school of this and the result.
- Following the school's one-way system.
- Avoid meeting up with friends and other family members unless necessary.
- Avoid sharing a car with people outside your family bubble unless necessary.
- Maintaining social distancing both around and outside the school grounds even with close friends and who are not in your family bubble.
- Continuing to wash hands thoroughly and regularly or use hand sanitiser if this is not possible at any time.

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

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

Testing can be arranged by calling 119 or via the NHS website: nhs.uk/coronavirus. When the result of the child's test is known, further advice will be available.

Please ensure that you check your emails up to and including 24th December in the case of any need for self-isolation due to a confirmed case within your child's bubble. We continue to have the school community and families at the heart of everything that we do. I would like to thank those who have expressed their gratitude and thanks at this time. Your kind words are really appreciated.

Louise Probets
(Head Teacher)