

16 December 2020

Hatton Road, Bedfont, Middlesex, TW14 9QZ

To All Parents/Carers



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Ms T Meredith - Headteacher

Dear Parents & Carers

Public Health England has agreed a 6-day window after the final day of term in which schools are asked to remain contactable so they can assist with contact tracing where necessary. This will allow enough time for positive COVID-19 cases to be identified and confirmed by a test and for relevant contacts in the education setting to be traced.

The DfE are clear that beyond 6-days after the final day of teaching, schools 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.

If your child tests positive in the period 18 – 24 December, can you please leave a message on the emergency mobile **07736 466907** stating:

- Your child's name.
- Your child's class.
- Date of your child's positive test

This will allow us to inform Public Health England and contact the families of pupils in the same class.

As you may be aware, schools were given the option by the Government to close on Friday 18th December. We decided to stay open so that the Primary children at least could enjoy the run-up to Christmas and to help parents get as much preparation time as possible before Christmas. As a result we will be opening slightly later in the New Year on Wednesday 6th January. Staff will be in on the 4th/5th January making telephone calls to all parents as part of Track & Trace to make sure that everyone who returns is free of symptoms and has not come into contact with any positive cases during the last week of the Christmas break. Many pupils, parents and staff will have travelled abroad and on their return will need to quarantine for the specified time. At the moment we have so many staff self-isolating and a very high number of positive cases that we may also have severe staff shortages in January if any of the staff have prolonged illness as a result.

You may have read in the news that schools will have access to rapid result testing which could take place in schools as early as January. Schools will be provided with testing kits including personal protective equipment (PPE). They will be provided with comprehensive guidance and training materials and support to introduce a testing programme that detects asymptomatic cases. We intend to use the 4th/5th January to provide crucial training for staff. These days will be training days.

This should make things a lot safer in schools and avoid too many closures due to shortage of staff. Thank you again for all your support.

Yours faithfully

Tracy Meredith
Headteacher

We put well-being at the heart of everything we do.

Our Vision – Every pupil will learn the skills and develop the confidence needed to become a valued integrated and independent member of their community.

Nurture – Challenge - Inspire