

Pilgrim Primary Academy

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15th December 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Notification of a positive Covid 19 case during the Christmas Holiday period

This has been an exceptional year that I am sure we will all remember for a long time to come. As a result of the support of you as parents and carers along with the dedication of the school team, we approach Christmas together in the hope of a much brighter New Year. Whilst it is wonderful to see a vaccine for Covid-19 being started to be administered to the most vulnerable in our community, it is important that we remain alert to the virus, which is likely to remain in the community for some considerable time.

On 8th December the DfE asked all schools to consider closing a day earlier than anticipated on Thursday 17th December, to reduce the time period when schools would be required to notify of any positive Covid-19 case in school. The Trust considered this carefully and decided to keep school open as planned on 18th December. This was a challenging decision, but we feel that children have already missed enough days in school this year due to the pandemic. We considered the difficulty any early closure would have presented to you as parents and carers at short notice. In addition, we have considered the possibility of children missing out on a free school meal where eligible as a result of early closure.

We do need to continue to monitor the children's health during the holidays and report any positive cases. This is to ensure the school can assist the test and trace process, to help to advise others to self-isolate if required. We are asking for your help to do this.

1. Before Christmas Day:

For the first 6 days only following the end of term on 18th December (up to and including Christmas Eve), we ask that if your child tests positive for Covid -19, having developed symptoms within 48 hours of last being in school, that you please notify the school straight away on the designated email address or phone number below.

covidalert@ppsonline.org

07395010262

2. Christmas Day or after:

Should your child develop Covid-19 after Christmas Eve, please inform school using the above contact details during the weekend of 2nd and 3rd January, so that together we ensure that we are all ready to commence the new term on Tuesday 5th January, when the children return to school.

I really hope that no member of our community is unwell with Covid-19 over the Christmas period but we must be prepared just in case. Your help and understanding in this matter is very much appreciated.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Meek
Headteacher