



## Bicton C of E Primary School and Nursery

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Head teacher: Mrs Natalie Johnson BA (Hons)



14<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you for your support throughout the autumn term. Whilst I know the closure of one of our bubbles was disruptive for some of you, we have been very fortunate that we have faced minimal disruption due to COVID-19 throughout the majority of the term.

I am sure you will be aware of the government's announcement last week which indicated that schools could choose to close to pupils and move a staff training day to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. This was suggested, as staff are being asked to continue to support the track and trace system throughout the holiday until Christmas Eve (as we have through other holidays.)

Whilst this may seem like a positive suggestion from the government, there would be an obvious impact for many parents both this Friday (in us closing and you needing to finish work a day early / try to arrange childcare) but also in that we would have to add in an extra teaching day to either the Spring or Summer term 2021 when parents could potentially already have booked holidays. After speaking with both local headteachers and the Local Authority, who consulted schools across Shropshire, we decided to continue, as planned, and finish for Christmas on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

In terms of track and trace, **we ask that you read the following information in full so that you know what we need you to do if your child tests positive for COVID-19.** We ask that you follow these procedures to enable us to protect the wider population.

I will be contactable on the following mobile number **07922 081676**, if your child receives a positive test after we have finished on Friday 18<sup>th</sup>. **Parents and staff are advised that they only need to inform school of a positive test if the individual's symptoms emerged within 48 hours of the pupil/staff member last being in school/nursery.**

Please send a text to **07922 081676** with the following information:

- Pupil name and class
- Last date they were in school/nursery
- Date their symptoms began
- Date the test was carried out
- Date the result was received
- Evidence of the positive test (a photo of the test result or email)
- If a pupil has had a test, they must self-isolate until the result is received.

For clarification, the text below is taken directly from the DfE email to schools:

- *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.*

Please ensure that school have the correct mobile number for you and that you are able to pick up email notifications through the holiday. Any pupils or staff who have to self-isolate will be advised by a text to the phone number we have on our systems and a letter will also be emailed out.

If you are asked to self-isolate, whilst I know this may affect Christmas plans, I ask that you do follow this guidance to support the whole community and, hopefully, a successful return to school after the Christmas break. As a school, we will always follow the guidance of the DfE, Public Health England and Shropshire Health Protection Team advice.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families who have supported our hard work and efforts to keep everyone safe this term. Our children never cease to amaze us with how brilliantly they have coped in these strange times and we are sure they will continue to do so when we return to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

I hope you all have a peaceful and happy Christmas.

Warmest wishes



Mrs Natalie Johnson  
Head teacher

**School term finishes at the end of the school day on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December and pupils return on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**