



16th December 2020

Dear Parents,

Track and Trace Arrangements for the Christmas Holidays

Thankfully, we have not yet needed to be a part of the Government's Track and Trace system as we have had no cases of COVID-19 to date amongst the pupils or staff of the school. We have systems in place should this situation occur and now need to let you know the arrangements for the Christmas holidays.

Christmas Holidays

Guidance states that if someone tests positive for coronavirus, those who were in close contact with them 48 hours before the symptoms emerged are likely to need to be told to self-isolate. In practice, this means that, as the school term finishes on Friday 18 December, pupils or staff who develop symptoms up to Sunday 20 December could still have had close contact with others in school within those 48 hours.

The Department for Education and Public Health England have said that where a pupil or staff member develops symptoms after the 48 hours, they should not need to contact the school and can use the contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Track and Trace.

We would urge anyone who has the main symptoms of coronavirus (a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste) to have a test as soon as possible. We would also strongly recommend that you arrange this at a local test centre (and not by post) so that the Christmas post does not delay your test or its results.

You ONLY need to contact us IF your child tests positive AND the symptoms emerged BEFORE 5 pm on Sunday 20 December. If this happens, please contact us as soon as possible.

Should you need to contact us, you will need to email head@alverton.cornwall.sch.uk. This will be checked daily between 9am and 10am up to, and including, Thursday 24 December. You will need to tell us your child's full name and your home address and the last day they were in school as well as any relevant details about the test.

We will take advice from Truro and Penwith Academy Trust (TPAT) and Public Health England. If we then need to notify families of the need to self-isolate, we will send an email to the email address we hold on record here and will text you on the number we normally text to advise you to look at your emails. All further contact, if necessary, should then be through the contact details provided and not through the school.

Preparations for the Spring Term

The Spring term begins on Wednesday 6th January. In line with previous information sent out by the school, please notify the school by email (secretary@alverton.cornwall.sch.uk) if your child(ren) have tested positive for the virus during the holiday period or are self-isolating as term begins. Please note that arrangements regarding notifications during the Autumn Term will remain in place on our return in January.

We take our responsibility to keep all members of the school community safe extremely seriously and very much hope that these steps will not be necessary and that we will all be able to enjoy a "normal" Christmas with our families.

Best wishes,

Martin Higgs
Headteacher

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