



# St. Mary's C of E School

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Headteacher: Mr. T. Milne

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As we approach the end of term, I am writing to inform you of the latest guidance from the Department of Education regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. As you may know, schools were given the option of closing to children for the Christmas holidays one day earlier than planned, but, along with all of the schools in our local group, we made the decision to remain open on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> as planned. We have been asked to make you aware of the following guidance regarding positive coronavirus cases during the Christmas holidays:-

- *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. We therefore ask that if your child tests positive, having developed symptoms on or before Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December, please contact the school at [admin@st-marys-pri.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys-pri.hereford.sch.uk) to advise of the positive test result.*
- *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.*
- *School staff are not asked to remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than 6 days after the final day of teaching. Where a school's last teaching day is on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, there should be no pupil contact tracing beyond Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December.*

(Department for Education Guidance, December 2020)

Symptoms began on (or date of positive test)	Between Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> December – Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January
<b>Action Required</b>	Parents inform school immediately. School will notify individuals within respective bubble who may have come into contact. Notified individuals will have to self-isolate for 10 days.	Parents inform school immediately. School will notify individuals within respective bubble who may have come into contact on Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> and Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December. Notified individuals will have to self-isolate for 10 days.	Parents inform school immediately. School will notify individuals within respective bubble who may have come into contact on Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December. Notified individuals will have to self-isolate for 10 days.	Parents should not inform school unless testing was delayed following onset of symptoms and case had occurred in school.
	In the event of a confirmed case between the <b>close of school on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b> and <b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b> , please contact the school office by email at <a href="mailto:admin@st-marys-pri.hereford.sch.uk">admin@st-marys-pri.hereford.sch.uk</a>			
<b>Parental Responsibility</b>	Parents to notify close contact family and friends and follow advice as per NHS Covid-19 guidelines <a href="http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/">http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/</a>			

To ensure that these arrangements work effectively and minimise the risk of compromising families' Christmas break, please adhere to the following:

- Seek tests via testing centres rather than via postal tests as this can delay confirmation of results. When tests are undertaken via test centres, results are usually forthcoming within 24-48 hours.
- When waiting for a test result, remember that it is advisable to take necessary steps whilst awaiting confirmation. Please ensure that you continue to adhere to recommended isolation and/or social distancing protocol.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January. However, if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 they must not come back to school until they have been tested. This can be arranged by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test-or-by-calling-119>. If anyone in your household has a COVID test then your child should remain in isolation until the test result is received.

The Department for Education has also published new guidance for parents and carers detailing arrangements and changes in schools regarding statutory tests and Ofsted inspections in 2021. This can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Further information is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Please look out for a jam-packed School Bell on Friday afternoon. In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Milne  
Headteacher

*A rich education is more than simply learning reading, writing and maths. It is about helping a child grow into their full potential as inquisitive, well balanced and cheerful adults. As a Christian school we nurture children to display the 'fruit of the Spirit', which is "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). At St Mary's you will find children growing in mind, body and spirit as they form good relationships with each other, the staff and discover a faith which will sustain them in a rapidly changing world. As our motto has it: "what we nurture today flourishes tomorrow".*