

Bawtry Mayflower Primary School
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11th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following on from the email which was sent on Wednesday, we wanted to confirm the situation and give you further information.

You may have seen in the press this week that the DfE has given permission for schools in England to close to pupils early for Christmas on Thursday 17th December 2020, using one of their allocated training days for staff on Friday 18th.

The rationale behind the decision from the DfE is that school leaders are expected to continue to work with the DfE and Public Health England to support the Test and Trace System during the initial part of the school holidays. By allowing schools to close to pupils on Friday the 18th, school leaders would not be expected to engage with Test and Trace issues on Christmas Eve.

The message from the DfE comes very late in the day and we recognise that it would be difficult for working parents to make other arrangements.

We have therefore made the decision that our plans in school will not change and our school will close for Christmas at the normal time on Friday 18th December 2020.

Below are the procedures that we are advised to follow by the DfE and PHE and the school emergency contact numbers for reporting confirmed cases.

“Test and Trace” during the Christmas school holiday period

The DfE and PHE advise that

- where a pupil or staff member develops symptoms **within the first 48 hours** after the end of term, and tests positive, school should be contacted and informed.
- where a pupil or staff member develops symptoms **after the first 48 hours** and tests positive, they should use the ‘normal’ national test and trace system.

If your child develops symptoms within the first 48 hours of the school holiday:

- you must have your child tested.
- if the test is negative, you need take no further action.
- if the test is positive you **must** inform school so that close contacts can be made aware that they need to self isolate.
- your child must isolate for 10 days from the onset of their symptoms

- you and any other members of your household must isolate for 14 days from the onset of symptoms.

If school is informed that there is a positive case in your child’s class bubble arising from symptoms that started within the first 48 hours of the school holiday:

- school will contact you via ParentPay to advise that your child has been in contact with a confirmed positive case
- you will be advised that your child must self-isolate for 14 days from the onset of symptoms in the positive case.
- you must monitor your child and arrange a test if they develop symptoms within the isolation period.

Please ensure you have access to ParentPay emails and texts over the Christmas period as this is how you will be notified of a positive COVID case in your child’s bubble. If you have any issues with ParentPay, you must let school know by the end of the day on Tuesday 15th December.

If your child tests positive and symptoms started within the first 48 hours after the end of term, contact school in the following three ways:

Email- head@bawtrymayflower.doncaster.sch.uk
n.walker@bawtrymayflower.doncaster.sch.uk
 Phone and leave a voicemail on: 07929873534

All three methods of contact should be used in the event of a positive COVID case to ensure no messages are missed.

These email addresses and the voicemail will be checked once a day for the first six days after term ends.

We do sincerely hope that this advice will not be needed and that your Christmas holiday passes without incident, but please do save this letter should you need to refer to it later.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Mrs Jenkinson & Mrs Walker

