

10th December 2020

Dear Families,

I wanted to write and let you know that there are **no changes** to our planned end of term or inset dates. The Dfe has just this week given schools the option to use Friday 18th December as an Inset day however we have already planned to do this on Monday 4th January 2021.

The Government has asked schools to retain the duty to contact trace for a period of six days after the end of term. As a result of the contact and trace procedures, it is important that parents understand that up to and including December 24th 2020 I may need to alert you that your son or daughter has been in close or prolonged contact with a positive case of Covid-19. This would consequently mean a period of self-isolation as per government guidelines. I would write individually to affected families and notification of this would be received via text message.

The DfE also asked that we communicate the instructions and arrangements to follow in the event of your child testing positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19) after school closes.

- *Where a pupil 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 tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms **within 48 hours** of being in school, **you will need to contact the school** as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school and we are asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation.*
- *As our last day is Friday 18th you will need to contact the school via alert@colleton.wokingham.sch.uk. I will be monitoring this email address between 9.30-10.30 each day up to and including Christmas Eve to assist with the process of notifying close contacts.*
- *Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case **after the first 6 days** following the end of term, we do not need to be informed about their absence **until the first day of the new term** via the same email address alert@colleton.wokingham.sch.uk*

I appreciate that a period of self-isolation would be awful timing for families over the festive period. Equally you will understand how crucial it is that we inform you especially if your children are meeting with elderly or vulnerable friends or relatives over the festive period. If you have any questions about any of the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks,

Michelle Law