



9.12.2020

Dear Parents/carers

As the end of our first term draws near, I am writing to give you advanced notice of our intention to close the school on Thursday 17th December at the end of school day for the Christmas holidays. This decision has been taken following yesterday's announcement from the Department of Education (DfE) that, where possible, all face to face teaching ends on Thursday 17 December 2020. This is to allow schools to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation if a pupil or staff member tests positive for the first 6 days of the holiday period.

What to do over Christmas if your child tests positive?

For the first 6 days after school finishes (from Thursday 17th – Wednesday 23rd December 2020), if your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms **within 48 hours** of being in school, then you will need to contact the school via **the emergency mobile phone number 07761 832275 or message Mrs Marshall on Class Dojo**. (Please do not send messages to class teachers). The school will identify any students that may have been in close proximity to the affected person. These students will be contacted and advised to self-isolate for 14 days from the date of their last contact with the positive case.

If your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms **more than 48 hours** since being in school, the **school should not be contacted**. You should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

Where your child is required to self-isolate due to being in contact with a positive case after the first 6 days following the end of term, schools do not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term.

What to do over Christmas if your child has COVID-19 symptoms?

If any member of your household displays symptoms of Covid-19, it is vital that all members of the household self-isolate for 14 days, unless a negative test result is received. Symptoms of Covid-19 are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

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If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

In the event of a member of your household testing positive, all other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home, and visitors should not come to your home.

Arrangements for the last day of term – Thursday 17th December 2020

The children will finish school at the usual time – either 3.00pm or 3.15pm.

Arrangements for the first day of term – Monday 4th January 2021

We will still be having our **INSET day on Monday 4th January 2021** as planned so please send your children back to school on **Tuesday 5th January 2021**.

Thank you for your on-going support. On behalf of everyone at Rawmarsh Ashwood Primary, I wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable Christmas break and we look forward to a better and healthier 2021!

Yours sincerely

Helen Marshall

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