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Scarborough Road, Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 3JS

Tel: 01943 462349

Headteacher: Ms H.R. Carpenter • email: info@westgateprimary.co.uk

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Dear Parents/ Carers

Arrangements over the Christmas Holiday

You may have seen the Department for Education's announcement yesterday afternoon that schools may choose to take a training day on Friday 18th December next week, in part to prevent school leaders remaining on call for track and trace up to and including Christmas Eve. This announcement may have left you wondering what our plans are at Westgate.

I can confirm that Westgate will be open as usual next Friday. We have already allocated all of our training days for this academic year, and they are valuable days which we use for professional development. They are not 'days off' for staff. In addition, as a school we strongly feel that the announcement today does not provide working parents with adequate time to make alternative arrangements for their children.

With regard to track and trace, the advice remains the same: if your child tests positive over the Christmas holidays, you must inform school. The table below sets out what you should do while school is closed:

What should I do if	Actions for you to take	Actions school will take
Someone in my household has COVID-19 symptoms over the Christmas holiday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household member with symptoms should get a test as soon as possible Whole household should self-isolate while waiting for test result Either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stop self-isolating when a negative test result is received Or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete self-isolation as advised if the person tests positive for COVID- (10 days from the start of symptoms for the person who tests positive, 14 days for all other household members) Inform school about a positive result by emailing head@westgateprimary.co.uk , including date on which your child's self-isolation period ends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

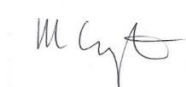
What should I do if	Actions for you to take	Actions school will take
<p>My child tests positive for COVID-19, having become symptomatic within 2 days of them last being in school</p> <p>OR</p> <p>My child tests positive for COVID-19 within 2 days of them last being in school, and was not symptomatic prior to their test</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child self-isolates for at least 10 days from when symptoms started (or from day of test if no symptoms) • Inform school immediately about results by texting 07891 279271, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ child's name; ○ date they became symptomatic; ○ date of test; ○ date of test result. • Whole household self-isolates for 14 days from day when child's symptoms started (or from day of test if no symptoms) even if someone else tests negative within the 14 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact all close contacts from their bubble and advise them to self-isolate for 14 days from the start of child's symptoms • Notify the local authority as required • Advise you on the date your child can return to school in January
<p>My child tests positive for COVID-19, but their symptoms started over 2 days of them last being in school.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>My child tests positive for COVID-19 over 2 days of them last being in school, and was not symptomatic prior to their test</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child self-isolates for at least 10 days from when symptoms started (or from day of test if no symptoms) • Inform school about results by emailing head@westgateprimary.co.uk, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ child's name; ○ date they became symptomatic; ○ date of test; ○ date of test result. • Whole household self-isolates for 14 days from day when child's symptoms started (or from day of test if no symptoms) even if someone else tests negative within the 14 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise you on the date your child can return to school

If your child is identified as a close contact of someone with confirmed COVID-19 who was in school up to 2 days before they became symptomatic/ tested positive, we will notify you by text and email so that you know the period of self-isolation for your child.

You have all been fantastic at following the rules about self-isolation when someone in your household becomes symptomatic. These rules still apply. Your vigilance is what is stopping the virus from spreading widely within our school community. Thank you for your actions and support, both throughout this term and through the Christmas holiday which is now almost upon us. By being careful now, we can hopefully ensure that this crisis comes to an end sooner rather than later in 2021.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely



Helen Carpenter
Head teacher