



09.12.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we draw near to the end of term, below are some reminders and minor changes to day to day school to be aware of. As always these routines and changes are reviewed regularly and the proposed timings are as a result of remaining in the Government's COVID response 'Tier 1' for the time being.

### **End of term arrangements and reporting a positive case in the first 6 days of the holiday:**

As you are aware, schools play an integral part in the Track and Trace scheme in contacting the 'close contacts' of positive cases in the school community and advising them to isolate on behalf of Public Health England. Unfortunately this work cannot stop during the first 6 days of the holiday, as should there be a positive case in our school community, we hold all the information about bubbles and close contacts that may need to be told to isolate.

With this in mind, the Government has published advice that schools can move an INSET day, should they choose, to the last day of term so that the 6th day of potential Track and Trace work for school leaders does not fall on Christmas Eve. As a school we have chosen not to move any INSET day and are remaining open for children on Friday 18th December but finishing after lunch as I mentioned in the Friday news last week (see below). We have made that decision because:

1. In Cornwall cases continue to fall to lower levels. The risk remains lower than the national picture and therefore the likelihood of cases requiring test/trace work by school leaders on the days leading up to Christmas including Christmas Eve is small.
2. We feel it is short notice for parents to arrange a full day of childcare.
3. Parents only need to contact the school in the holidays if they need to report a positive case where the symptoms began within the 48 hours of being in school (up until Sunday evening). For example: if your child became ill on **Saturday or Sunday (within 48 hours of being in school)** you would have to notify the school as soon as you receive a positive test result. If your child's symptoms began after the first weekend of the holidays, then you would not need to notify school of any positive test results.

### **How do I contact school to report a positive case?**

As a school, someone (me) has to be contactable by parents and staff for the first 6 days of the holiday in case the Test and Trace team need help identifying close contacts. Do remember you only need to do this if the symptoms began with 48 hours of being in school. The below email will be checked each day for positive case news! This will only be checked up until the evening of Christmas Eve as any cases identified after this point, would not have an affect on the school community.

[covid@trevithick.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:covid@trevithick.cornwall.sch.uk)

### **Early finish on Friday 18th December**

We are finishing school for children at the earlier times (below). This will allow our staff to clear down the classrooms before the holiday and ensure it isn't done during the break. Collection will be from classroom doors at:

1:00pm for R, 1, 2, 3 & 4

1:15pm for Y5 & 6

## Start and end of the school day after the holidays:

- Breakfast clubs open at 8:00am - 8:30am and will remain in year group bubbles.
- School will still start at 8:45am with doors open from 8:30am for morning maths.
- School will finish at 3:00pm for Years R, 1, 2, 3 & 4 (**THIS IS A CHANGE**).
- School will finish at 3:15pm for Years 5 & 6 (we won't be releasing children before this time).

As always please respect social distancing whilst on site and keep well clear of the white box outside the classroom doors.

## Home learning reminders:

Daily reading continues as it has done for the year so far. Children's reading diaries will continue to be checked each week. Weekly spellings will continue as normal.

We return to maths homework in early January (I'm sure the children will be delighted to hear this!). This will now be set once a week on a Monday and will be due to be completed by the following Monday. The maths homework will be set and completed online using an online learning platform called Mathletics. We will be setting up all the children's login details for this shortly.

## SATS and Primary Assessment changes

The government has made some changes to the way children are formally assessed at the end of the year. The changes seek to reduce the burden on schools during this pandemic, especially as attendance in many areas of the country has been badly affected. In summary it means children in Year 2 will not have government tests this year but instead their results will be based solely on teacher assessments. Year 6 will no longer have a grammar and spelling test but maths, reading and writing assessments will continue as normal. The Year 4 multiplication check will be optional instead of statutory. The Year 1 phonics screening check will go ahead as normal.

We await to see what the next term brings! Hopefully the vaccine and a gradual return to something more sociable! The Government will be reviewing their advice about domestic overnight trips in February with a view to them possibly being allowed again after Easter. I guess with almost everything, it all depends on what happens to case numbers in the Spring!

So with all of that organisational stuff out of the way, let's get excited about the virtual Christmas concert and Nativity next week! As always, if you have any questions do get in contact.

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