



10 December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

This week the government issued their latest guidance, requesting that schools remain contactable six days after the last day of teaching so that they can assist with contact tracing, should an adult or child from the school community test positive for the Covid-19 virus, following school closure.

The guidance states, 'we are clear that beyond six days after the final day of teaching, school and further education staff are not asked to play a role in any contact tracing'. The guidance suggests that schools may wish to use 18 December as a training day so the window of contact for staff and parents with the school ends on 23 December. This is a fitting date, allowing all school colleagues to spend time with their families 'ensuring that staff get the time off they need and deserve'.

As you are aware, we have a scheduled training day on 3 January, 2021 which has already been planned for. We are therefore going to replace the scheduled training day on 19 April 2021 for next Friday 18 December.

This means that school will be closed on Friday 18 December; the last day of this term being Thursday 17 December.

Please familiarise yourself with the government guidance below if your child tests positive after 17 December until 23 December:

'Where a pupil or staff member 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 six days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. School staff are not asked to remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than 6 days after the final day of teaching. Where a school's last teaching day is on Thursday 17 December, there should be no pupil contact tracing requests beyond Wednesday 23 December.

For the first six days after the end of term, schools are not being asked to be on-call all the time. Staff responsible for contact tracing may designate a limited period in the day to receive notification of positive cases and advise close contacts to self-isolate (this can be done by text or email). The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline and PHE advice service are available to support with any queries you have about positive cases in your school.

Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first six days following the end of term, schools do not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term.'

Please ensure that I am informed of any pupil positive cases via email using admin.lincolngardensprimary@northlincs.gov.uk. Emails will be monitored regularly. Following analysis of our internal contact tracing system, I will notify any affected people (staff and pupils), informing them of the necessary isolation period. It is important that we follow this government communication expectation during the first six days of the holiday to prevent the spread of the virus. When emailing, please state the first day symptoms appeared and the date of the test in addition to the child/adult's name.

In what has been a really challenging year for us all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your understanding and support as we have steered through what can only be described as unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely

Miss A Nuttall
Headteacher