

The Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School

Known Nurtured Inspired

Headteacher: Ian Wilson BA PGCE MA NPQH



14th December 2020

Dear parent/carer,



The school community have been in a festive spirit, with students raising £1700 for Save the Children in our Christmas jumper day. Our Year 7s also delivered Christmas cards and craft to residents at Grosvenor Manor. This positivity will take us through to the end of term on **Friday 18th December**, with children making their way home from:

- **Year 7 – 12.10pm**
- **Year 8 – 12.15pm**
- **Year 9 – 12.20pm**
- **Year 10 – 12.25pm**
- **Year 11/12/13 – 12.30pm**

Since my letter dated Monday 8th December regarding Christmas track and trace arrangements the DFE have updated guidance for positive COVID tests in the first days of the holidays and a change to isolation periods.

Please take note of the following information to enable self-isolation safety messages:

Between 3.15pm on Friday 18th December 2020 and 12.30pm on Thursday 24th December 2020

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 or is asymptotically tested and the result is positive (tested when they don't have symptoms) and your child was in school in the 48hrs prior to the symptom on-set (or test if they have been tested but don't have symptoms) email attendance@bishopschester.co.uk. If your child has been determined as a close/direct contact, you will receive a text message and an email. Parents will not be telephoned during holiday/leave periods.

You do not need to notify the school if your child has not been in school in the 48hrs prior to the symptom onset (or test if they have been tested but don't have symptoms).

After 12.30pm on Thursday 24th December 2020 and Sunday 3rd January 2021

If your child develops symptoms or is asymptotically tested (tested when they don't have symptoms) don't contact the school. Please follow guidance from NHS track and trace. The national test and trace service will contact you to complete the contact tracing. The school does not need to be notified if your child is required to self-isolate after this point in the Christmas holidays.

Change to self-isolation period (14 days to 10 days)

Self-isolation is essential to reducing the spread of COVID as it breaks the chains of transmission. The number of days that contacts need to self-isolate changes today from 14 days to 10 days. What this means for staff and students who are currently self-isolating:

- Any staff and students who will be at day 11 or more on Monday 14th December 2020 can end their isolation and return to school
- Any staff and students who are on day 1 to day 10 of their self-isolation on Monday 14th December 2020 will have their self-isolation period reduced to 10 days and can return to school on day 11

- Any staff and students identified as contacts from Monday 14th December 2020 onwards should be given a self-isolation date of 10 days from the last date of contact with the case for contacts in an education setting or 10 days from the cases symptom on-set (or date of test if asymptomatic) for household contacts.

Further information regarding this can be found here <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/how-long-to-self-isolate/>.

Thank you for your diligence and communication with the attendance team about symptomatic students/household members. Our numbers of positive cases have remained low and this can be explained by a community approach and shared awareness of the symptoms of COVID - 19 and ensuring that safety measures are being followed. Our attendance for the Term is something to celebrate, with it being at the same point as last academic year and 17% above the national average for secondary schools (Sept – November 2020). This shows how much we all value being together at school to support progress and learning. There is much to be thankful for and take comfort in what has been a busy term.

Wishing you a happy Christmas and joyful new year.



Helen Cairns
Deputy Headteacher