

14th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Track and Trace during the Christmas Break

As some of you may be aware, all the tracking and tracing of school aged children currently falls to schools. However, the school is given no powers to amend isolation length or apply any interpretation of the guidance. Children who have been in close contact with a confirmed case must isolate for 10 days.

If your child comes into contact with a COVID-19 case in school from the 15-17th December, this isolation will include Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. I appreciate for many of you this will be upsetting but we have no power to change this.

If your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) during the Christmas break, please notify us as soon as possible so we can complete the relevant track and trace process and notify any other children or staff who have been in close contact and who need to self-isolate.

During the holidays you can email office@heartlands.haringey.sch.uk to let us know. Please note that this inbox will be checked daily, however, only COVID-19 emails will be responded to. After Christmas Eve, your child(ren) shouldn't be a close contact of anyone at the school and therefore we will not need to implement any school Track and Trace procedures. Please do NOT call the school line as this will not be covered during the Christmas holiday.

Remember, as soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test regardless of it being Christmas. If your child is unwell on Tuesday 5th January or has been advised to isolate by the NHS, please **DO NOT** send them into school. Please ring the student absence line to report this to our attendance officer.

Lastly, may I thank you all for your patience and trust. We have worked so well together this term. The support you have offered us during this difficult time has been invaluable.

Yours sincerely,



Elen Roberts
Head of School

Main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you're not sure whether symptoms suggest that they have COVID-19 or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Please do not send children back to nursery or school if any of the following apply:

- they have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- they, any members of your household, or any close contacts (including extended family or friends they have seen and bubbles at holiday activities and sports clubs) have tested positive for COVID-19
- they haven't completed the full 14 day isolation period requested

Self-isolating is one of the most important things we can all do to help stop the spread of the virus and protect our loved ones and the vulnerable. You can read a helpful self-isolating guide [here](#).

If you or your family are affected by COVID-19 and need support locally with things like shopping, getting medication or financial advice, visit: <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/covid>.