

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, STEVENAGE

REPORTING COVID CASES DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

The school community has worked very hard to keep everyone safe during this term. We have followed the advice and we thank you for sticking to staggered starts and wearing masks on the playground.

During the holidays, the Government has directed schools to remain responsible for tracking Covid cases and informing parents if there is a need to isolate. It is essential that information is shared promptly with the school.

If your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) at any point during the Christmas break, please notify us as soon as possible so we can complete the relevant tracking and tracing process with Public Health, if required, and notify any other children or staff who have been close contacts and who need to self-isolate.

We will need to know the date of symptoms starting; your child's last date in school; as well as sending us confirmation of your test results when they arrive.

*During the holidays you should contact Mr White (head@stvincent.herts.sch.uk) if you have booked a test for your child(ren) and when you have received the results of the test. **This email account will be monitored daily until Christmas Eve as a positive test up until this point could impact upon others in your child's school bubble.** Please do not call or email the normal absence line as this will not be accessed by school staff during the holiday period.*

After Christmas Eve, please still let Mr White know of any positive cases in order that isolation periods can be tracked, ensuring that our return to school in January is safe. Although the school is not responsible for 'track and trace' after 24th December, we still need to know as a positive case / symptoms from 27th December onwards would prevent a return to school on the first day of term.

Please inform us of the date of symptoms starting; as well as sending us confirmation of your test results. During this period the email address will be regularly monitored and you will be advised of the date when your child may return to school

Travelling Abroad

If you are travelling abroad during the Christmas period and return to the UK after Christmas day, unless it is a country in a travel corridor, you must self-isolate for 10 full days after you arrive back. Your child must not return to school until the 10 day isolation is complete.

If you are using the Test to Release Scheme, please send a copy of your test result to Mr White before your child returns to school.

You will be notified of the date upon which your child may return to school.

Day of return to the UK	27/12	28/12	29/12	30/12	31/12	1/1	2/1	3/1
Return to school	6/1	7/1	8/1	9/1	10/1	11/1	12/1	13/1

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.

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 10 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 our helpful self-isolating guide at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/selfisolatingguide

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