

St Joseph's Catholic Academy

A Leading Edge Technology & Applied Learning College
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Headteacher: Mr P Mitchell
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17 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Public Health have updated guidance for school age children who test positive over the Christmas holiday. As part of the guidance update, we have been asked to ensure that parents and carers are aware of the following information and relevant arrangements regarding positive cases in the holidays:

- Where a pupil tests positive for Covid, 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 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil tests positive for Covid 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. If your child develops symptoms **within 48 hours of being in school** please notify school as normal via office@stjosephs.uk.net
- 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 Friday 18th December, there should be no pupil contact tracing beyond Thursday 24th December, Christmas Eve.
- The email for notifying positive cases, office@stjosephs.uk.net will not be monitored from 3pm on Thursday 24th December. From that point all track and trace responsibility will be undertaken by Public Health England.

Please can I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the tremendous work that all the staff at St Joseph's have carried out this term. As you can imagine it has been very challenging at times but I know that staff have appreciated the support that you as parents have given them.

I hope you and your families all have a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Mitchell

Headteacher