

10 December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Change to the end of term for Tone Valley Partnership Schools

I write to inform you of a change to the end of term date for all schools in the Tone Valley Partnership. I apologise for the late notice, but Department for Education guidance on this matter was released only this week.

Arrangements for the final week of term

To ensure that Christmas is not disrupted through contact tracing, Kingsmead School and all Tone Valley Partnership schools have agreed that Friday 18 December 2020 will be an Inset day. Therefore, **the last day of term will be Thursday 17 December 2020.**

This change has been implemented because school staff will be required to assist with contact tracing for 6 days from 18 December until 23 December 2020. Within this period, any school-related Coronavirus cases can be identified, confirmed by a test and contacts determined by school staff. Beyond this period, from 24 December, parents, students and staff can enjoy their Christmas break in the knowledge that they will not be contacted by school staff with a request to self-isolate on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day or thereafter.

Student attendance during the last week of term

Please can I ask that you apply considerable caution when sending your child to school in the final week of term. If they are ill, they must not come in. If they have symptoms of Coronavirus then they must stay away from school and have a test. The impact of self-isolation on students and their families during the Christmas holidays, particularly after such a challenging term, must be carefully considered.

Reporting a confirmed Coronavirus case

All schools are required to have procedures in place to deal with any confirmed positive Coronavirus cases over the Christmas period. Essentially, you must report all positive cases of Coronavirus to school during the Christmas holidays, **up to and including 23 December**, as it could have implications for bubble closures and instructions to isolate. Please do this by emailing contact@kingsmead-school.com and title your message **CONFIRMED CORONAVIRUS CASE**. The emails will be checked every day.

From 24 December onwards, positive Coronavirus cases should be reported to the NHS & PHE through the usual channels. However, please continue to send Coronavirus information to contact@kingsmead-school.com as this may have implications for the bubbles when school returns on 5 January 2021.

Cont'd/...

CARE

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

DETERMINATION

Wiveliscombe, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 2NE

 contact@kingsmead-school.com

 01984 623483

www.kingsmead-school.com

The main symptoms of Coronavirus are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with Coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms. **If you have any of the main symptoms of Coronavirus:**

- Get a test to check if you have Coronavirus as soon as possible.
- You and anyone you live with should stay at home and not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.
- Anyone in your support bubble should also stay at home if you have been in close contact with them since your symptoms started or during the 48 hours before they started.

For further information please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Coronavirus-covid-19/>

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all parents and carers for continuing to do all you can to support the school and social distancing measures.

If you need any further information or have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Mark Williams

Mark Williams
Head Teacher

