



*Creativity is our key to learning*

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## Contact tracing over the Christmas holidays

Dear Parents/Carers

As you may be aware, Headteachers and school administrators have been asked, by the DfE, to continue to support NHS Track and Trace over the first week of the school Christmas holidays. This is to ensure that any positive case after the start of the school holiday can be communicated to the school. The school will then identify any children and/or staff who may have been in close contact with the positive case and with guidance from Public Health, will take the required steps regarding who should be contacted and how long they may need to self-isolate. The cut-off date for when education providers will no longer be contacted by NHS Track and Trace for contact tracing is the 24<sup>th</sup> December.

**Once school closes at the end of the day on Friday 18th December, parents are requested to follow this guidance:**

- If your child tests positive for Covid-19, having developed symptoms within 48 hours of the last day, (Friday 18th December), you need to contact the school via the following email address : [Covid19@walsden.calderdale.sch.uk](mailto:Covid19@walsden.calderdale.sch.uk) Your child needs to then isolate for 10 days and all members of the household members need to isolate for 10 days. The Headteachers will then contact Public Health and take appropriate action.
- If your child develops symptoms and tests positive for Covid-19, more than 48 hours from the last day (Friday 18th December), you do **NOT** need to contact the school, but instead follow any Contact Tracing Instructions provided by NHS Track and Trace.
- The last day school could be contacting families with the advice to self-isolate is 24<sup>th</sup> December.
- If your child has been advised to self-isolate, and/ or is displaying symptoms of Covid -19 on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, please contact the school office in the usual way. Although, we are closed for children that day, staff will be in school for training.

We appreciate that the thought of children having to isolate over the Christmas break is difficult, but it's vitally important that children who have been in close contact and are potentially infected are not circulating in the community.

Calderdale's public health team have asked us to forward the following advice and guidance:

### **Christmas Message from the Calderdale Children's Public Health Team**

The Government's announcement that we can form a "Christmas bubble" over the festive break gives us all a much longed for opportunity to meet up with friends and family, some of whom we may not have seen for many months. It is important though that we do this as safely as possible, so as not to put those we love at increased risk.

- Christmas bubbles can be made up of people from up to three households. You can only be in one Christmas bubble though, so you can't change your bubble from day to day.
- If you're meeting indoors over Christmas, try to keep some distance from others; keep windows open as much as the weather allows; wash your hands often; and wipe down frequently touched surfaces regularly.
- If anyone in your household develops any of the three main COVID-19 symptoms, arrange a test and don't meet with friends and family.
- Look after friends and family who are clinically vulnerable by reducing contact with them.

Remember, you don't have to meet up with others over the Christmas break if you don't feel comfortable doing so. Unfortunately, COVID-19 hasn't gone away.

If you are struggling, there is help available:

- Calderdale Council COVID-19 support: 01422 392890
- Citizens Advice: 0300 330 9048
- Healthy Futures Calderdale (for families with school-aged children): Tel 0303 330 9974 or text 07480 635297 (young people) or 07507 332157 (parents/carers)
- Childline: 0800 1111
- Samaritans: 116 123

We do know these are anxious times for families and we have asked a lot of you. You have responded brilliantly so far and we really appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we go into the Christmas break. This is a key moment in our combined fight against COVID-19 and your part in keeping everybody safe cannot be underestimated. Working together, we hope to minimise the transmission of this virus and protect everyone in our schools and the wider community, as much as we can.

Thank you in advance and we wish you and your children an enjoyable and safe Christmas holiday. We look forward to a more 'normal' and Covid free New Year.

Emma Crowther & Esther Logue  
Joint Headteachers