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7th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – COVID-19 AND THE CHRISTMAS BREAK

Whilst, sadly, this letter is not in keeping with the spirit of Christmas cheer, it does contain very important information that we need all parents and carers to understand.

As I am sure you are aware, many schools nationally have had positive cases of Covid-19, which has meant that groups of pupils have had to self-isolate. This remains the case over the Christmas break and so **it is essential that you contact the school immediately if your child receives a positive test during the holidays.** Please contact us on the following email address:

office@amesbury.wilts.sch.uk

Please include the following information. Attached is a checklist you can edit to assist you.

Has your child tested positive for COVID-19?

If **YES**, you need to inform the school as soon as possible.

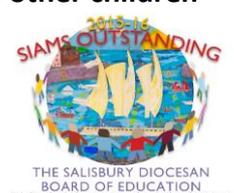
The school will need the following information to carry out a risk assessment of who may be a close contact: *(If notifying us of 2 or more new positive cases, refer to the individual cases as 'case 1', 'case 2', etc)*

	DATE
Date of start of first symptoms (in each case)	
Date when case(s) were last on School premises (in each case)	
Date of COVID-19 Test (of each case)	
Date of test result (of each case)	
Start date of the isolation period	
End date of the isolation period	
How does your child get to school? Eg, walk, car, public transport	
If by car, do you car share?	
If walking, do they walk with anyone else?	
If public transport, do they know who they were sat close to?	

Please provide any additional information you may have as to pupils or staff your child may have been in contact with during this period.	
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PLEASE NOTE: The infections period is 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms (or date of the test if tested when asymptomatic)

This email account will be checked regularly by staff throughout the holidays. **It is really important that you let us know if your child has a positive Covid-19 test, because it may mean other children will have to self-isolate.**



If your child tests positive in the early part of the holidays, it could mean that they were at school during the 'infectious period' where they could have passed the virus to other pupils. This would mean that we will need to contact other parents during the holidays to let them know their child must self-isolate for 14 days.

Whilst we hope that this does not happen, **we would ask that you check your emails/texts for any communication from school throughout the holidays.**

We have also been asked by Public Health to **help avoid a post-Christmas surge of infections** by reminding our families that sleepovers (aside from those allowed during the Christmas 'bubble' period) should not take place. Whilst we understand that young people want to be with and see their friends and that sleepovers are common in the holidays, we must remember that we remain in Tier Two:

TIER 2

HIGH ALERT

FROM 2 DEC

MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY	BARNS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS	RETAIL	WORK AND BUSINESS
<p>No mixing of households indoors, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six outdoors.</p>	<p>Pubs and bars must close, unless operating as restaurants. Hospitality venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals. Venues must stop taking orders at 10pm and must close by 11pm.</p>	<p>Open.</p>	<p>Everyone who can work from home should do so.</p>
EDUCATION	INDOOR LEISURE	ACCOMMODATION	PERSONAL CARE
<p>Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open. Childcare, other supervised activities for children, and childcare bubbles permitted.</p>	<p>Open.</p>	<p>Open.</p>	<p>Open.</p>
OVERNIGHT STAYS	WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS	ENTERTAINMENT	PLACES OF WORSHIP
<p>Permitted with household or support bubble.</p>	<p>15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships, wedding receptions and wakes; 30 for funerals.</p>	<p>Open.</p>	<p>Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.</p>
TRAVELLING	EXERCISE	RESIDENTIAL CARE	LARGE EVENTS
<p>Reduce the number of journeys you make and walk or cycle if possible. Avoid busy times and routes on public transport. Avoid car sharing with those outside of your household or support bubble. Avoid entering a Tier 3 area, other than where necessary such as for work or education. Further exemptions apply.</p>	<p>Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but cannot take place indoors if there is any interaction between people from different households. Organised activities for elite athletes, under-18s and disabled people can continue.</p>	<p>COVID-secure arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits. Outdoor/airtight visits only (rollout of rapid testing will enable indoor visits including contact).</p>	<p>Sport, live performances and business meetings limited to 50% capacity or 2000 people outdoors (whichever is lower) and 50% capacity or 1000 people indoors (whichever is lower).</p>

The rules for Christmas are slightly different but are only relevant for **23rd-27th December**:



- You can form a special 'Christmas bubble' with a maximum of three different households coming together with no cap on numbers. Support bubbles count as one household.
- You can create your Christmas bubble from 23rd-27th December.
- Households from the Christmas bubbles can stay in the same home, go to a place of worship or gather outside together. However, the existing tier restrictions apply to hospitality, so going to a pub together, for example, is not allowed.
- People can travel across the country to join their Christmas bubble regardless of what tier they are in.
- Over-65s in care homes are not able to join families at Christmas.

It is important to be mindful that Public Health are expecting an increase in Covid infections following the Christmas period with families mixing again and university students returning home. Whilst we really hope that everyone is able to enjoy the festive break, it is our duty to ask that you continue to be vigilant and stay alert to the virus during this time.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Short
Deputy Headteacher