

Dear Parents and Carers,

11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

You may have heard that the DfE have allowed schools to close early for Christmas on the 17<sup>th</sup> December if they make up that time later in 2021. Lacon Childe School, with our Trust school partners, have agreed not to do this as we are aware that our children have already missed a great deal of schooling and you have had to change much of what you do due to the restrictions imposed on you this year. This change to our term dates would cause a great deal of disruption being such late notice, and we feel it is not necessary. We will close on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and re-open on January 11<sup>th</sup>, as was planned over 12 months ago.

The reason the DfE wanted to do this was to prevent teachers having to work on Christmas Day on their Test, Track and Trace system. We have been informed that we must provide 6 days cover just in case any student or member of staff tests positive after they leave school on the last day of term. The following explains how Lacon Childe School will manage this after we close on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Public Health England has asked schools to remain contactable for six days following the last day of term so that we can assist with contact tracing where necessary. This will allow enough time for positive coronavirus (COVID-19) cases to be identified and confirmed by a test. Schools are also being asked to support the tracing process and inform possible contacts for the first six days of the holiday. After that, it is unlikely that exposure to the virus will have happened in the school setting so there is no need to let the school know or for the school to be involved in the test and trace process.

We are setting up an emergency contact system so that you can let us know if your child has a positive test for coronavirus during this time. You will be able to contact us via email at the following address:

[Test.result1@laconchildeschool.co.uk](mailto:Test.result1@laconchildeschool.co.uk)

Please, only use this address to let us know about a positive case. Emails to this address will be checked between 9.00 am and 10.00 am from Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December until Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December. There is no need to let us know if someone has symptoms. For all other enquiries, please use the [admin@laconchildeschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@laconchildeschool.co.uk) address and your enquiry will be dealt with when we return to school on **11<sup>th</sup> January 2021**.

If we receive notification of a positive case in school, we will send an email to those children and adults who may be contacts advising them to self-isolate and follow the procedures advised by Public Health England.

## What do you need to do?

If you get a **positive test result** on any day between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> December, please contact the school using the emergency email address. Please state which day was the last day your child was in school.

If your child develops symptoms on 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> December **and** tests positive, please contact the school as it is possible that they were infectious whilst still at school and we will have to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation.

If your child develops symptoms of Coronavirus on or after 25<sup>th</sup> December and tests positive, you do not need to contact school. Just follow the advice given to you by NHS Test and Trace.

This table shows the same information.

	23 <sup>rd</sup> December	24 <sup>th</sup> December	25 <sup>th</sup> December	26 <sup>th</sup> December	27 <sup>th</sup> December	28 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Positive Test Result</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Action</b>	Contact School	Contact School	Contact School	Contact School	Contact School	Contact School
<b>Symptoms develop and positive test result</b>	✓	✓				
<b>Action</b>	Contact School	Contact School	No need to contact School. Follow NHS Test and Trace advice	No need to contact School. Follow NHS Test and Trace advice	No need to contact School. Follow NHS Test and Trace advice	No need to contact School. Follow NHS Test and Trace advice

More information can be found at the following websites:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Keep safe and keep well.

Yours sincerely



Darren Reynolds : Headteacher