

9th December 2020,

Important Covid-19 Information Update – Contact Tracing over the School Holiday

Dear Parents/Carers,

You may have seen in the media yesterday the Department for Education's (DfE) announcement that schools are permitted to make Friday 18th December a 'non-teaching' day. I am writing to reassure you that we will not be amending our scheduled INSET days as this will not give sufficient notice to families. The guidance, given yesterday, states that schools would have to replace the lost teaching day with another day later in year, creating potential further disruption down the line. Our last day of term for pupils will therefore remain Friday 18th December.

The school will continue to support contact tracing after the end of term in the same way as it has done on non-teaching days since the start of the school year. Below is an extract from the DfE guidance from yesterday.

- *Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), 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 or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), 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.*
- *School staff are not asked to remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than 6 days after the final day of teaching.*

(Department for Education Guidance,
December 2020)

To help clarify this, please find a summary on the next page of the responses to a positive Covid-19 test for a pupil or member of staff at Arbury Primary School.

Summary of Responses Following a Positive Covid-19 Test

Date symptoms began (or date of positive test if asymptomatic)	Action Required
Up until Friday 18 th Dec	Parents/Carers should inform school immediately. The school will notify contacts within the bubble of the positive case. Notified individuals will have to self-isolate for 14 days.
Saturday 19 th Dec	Parents/Carers should inform school immediately by email. The school will notify contacts on Thursday 17 th and Friday 18 th within the bubble of the positive case. Notified individuals will have to self-isolate for 14 days.
Sunday 20 th Dec	Parents/Carers should inform school immediately by email. The school will notify contacts on Friday 18 th within the bubble of the positive case. Notified individuals will have to self-isolate for 14 days.
Monday 21 st Dec – Monday 4 th January	Unless testing was delayed following onset of symptoms, the case was not in the setting and therefore there is no need to contact school.

Please use the main school office email account (office@arbury.cambs.sch.uk) to inform us of any positive cases of Covid-19. This account will be checked daily at 7.00am until 24th Dec 2020.

Please also notify family and friends where there have been close contacts and follow advice as per NHS Covid-19 guidelines (<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>).

In order to ensure these arrangements work effectively and to minimise the risk of compromising families' Christmas break, please adhere to the following:

- Please seek tests via testing centres rather than via postal tests as this can significantly delay confirmation of results (results are normally available within 24 hours via test centres).
- Please continue to minimise the risk of infection within school (and the wider community) by adhering to social distancing protocol.

If there is anything you are at all unsure about regarding these arrangements please contact the school before the end of term.

Yours

Ben Tull
Headteacher

