



Horsforth School

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Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our ref: PCB/TRH

11th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well.

The final communication of the term will be in the form of a newsletter which will share with you some of the lovely news, successes and good news of the term. I know there is a lot of mixed news at the moment so hopefully this newsletter will be a welcome change.

As we come to the end of the term it has been great to have everyone back. The school, as always, has been calm and purposeful and our bubbles and staggers have worked well. As a result we have only had three positive cases in school since the ½ term break but we will still be contact tracing up to and including Christmas Eve.

Contact tracing over the Christmas break

If you are unlucky enough to receive a positive test after school breaks up could you please email the school at info@horsforthschool.org with the following information:

1. The date symptoms first appeared
2. The date the test results were received
3. Any close contacts at social times:
 - a. a person who has had face-to-face contact (within one metre, no mask), with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19
 - b. a person who has been within 2 metres of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes

Students are infectious 48 hours prior to symptoms appearing.

If a student **develops symptoms from Monday the 21st and tests positive you do not need to inform the school** (as they will not have been infectious whilst in school) just follow the NHS test and trace process.

You also do not need to inform the school if they develop symptoms more than 48 hours since they were last in school. Please see the following scenarios as examples:

- James was in school on Friday 18th December and developed symptoms on Monday 21st December and got a positive result on Tuesday 22nd December. In this instance, you would **not** need to inform school as James was not in school 48hrs prior to showing symptoms therefore he was not infectious while he was in school.
- Sally was in school on Friday 18th December and developed symptoms on Sunday 20th December and got a positive result on Monday 21st December. In this instance you **would** need to inform school as Sally was in school 48hrs prior to showing symptoms therefore she was infectious while she was in school.

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If students are required to isolate then we will contact you via email and text over the Christmas holidays as the safety of our students, their families and the wider community continues to be a priority for us. The contact tracing will be done by the Leadership Team over the holidays (a skeleton staff) who will be checking the info@horsforthschool.org emails once per day to do this.

To clarify, if a student is required to isolate **this does not affect their household** who can still go to work and do activities allowed by the local tier system **unless the student begins to show symptoms**.

Last day of term

The Government has announced that schools can move a training day to the 18th if they wish but we have decided to continue with our plans for the final day of term and the early finish as:

- We have had a training day recently
- We need to launch our summer training in June with the remaining day
- We have already informed you of our final day plans and to change at short notice would be disruptive
- The Years (11 & 13) sitting exams this year have already missed a lot of time and this would be another day missed
- Current cases **in school** are very low (3 cases this ½ term):
- Current cases in Leeds are dropping (143 per 100k vs. 450 prior to ½ term)
- Current cases in the community are dropping (90 per 100k in Horsforth)

Parent Trustee

We are looking for a new parental Trustee (a Governor) to join our board. Applications from parents with expertise in HR, finance or a similar professional field would be very welcome.

As we approach the final week of term I hope you are managing to find the Christmas spirit. I know it has been a very difficult time for all but hopefully you will all have some rest, family time and here's hoping 2021 is a significant improvement on 2020!

We have had a Christmas joke competition amongst the staff and I would like to share a favourite of mine (I am sorry it is only Christmas Cracker quality):

Why did the pirates have to go into lockdown?

Because the "Arrrrr!" rate had risen

Thank you for your continued support, positive messages and understanding.

Merry Christmas

Dr P Bell
Headteacher

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