

11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers



KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL LICHFIELD

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Headteacher: Ms J Rutherford BA (Hons)

All staff members are continuing to work extremely hard to ensure that school remains Covid-19 secure over the next two weeks to try to avoid the need for students to self-isolate which could impact on your families' Christmas celebrations. We understand that many families will want to assess the risk of seeing their loved ones over the break and we will communicate any confirmed positive cases, with potential contacts in school, to all our parents and carers.

The Department of Education has asked all schools to make staff, parents and carers aware of the following information and relevant arrangements regarding positive cases in the holidays:

- 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.
- 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.

It is therefore critical that if your child **tests positive** after developing symptoms **within 48 hours of being in school**, that you inform school by **sending a text via the attendance text line: 07860 034183**. This number sends a message to our Group call which will be monitored by members of the Senior Leadership team who will then contact Public Health England for specific guidance about which children would need to self-isolate and contact them in accordance with their instructions. We will use Group call to communicate this. These children must then self-isolate at home for 14 days from the last contact with the positive case as instructed by Public Health England. Other household members do not need to self-isolate at home unless the child self-isolating develops any symptoms of Covid-19.

Please note that where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 48 hours following the end of term, school does not need to be informed about their absence unless it impacts on their attendance at the beginning of term. This Department of Education guidance is clear that schools remain responsible for supporting Track and Trace for the first 6 days of the school holidays. There will only be implications for contact within school if someone develops symptoms within the first 48 hours. Please ensure that any positive test results are reported promptly.

You may have seen information in the press recently relating to schools having an INSET day on the 18<sup>th</sup> December. King Edward VI School will remain open and students will be attending school as planned including the early closure. We have Year 11 students completing mock exams and it is important that these go ahead for our students as planned. In addition to this our school calendar and Staff training is already planned and moving an INSET day to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December would extend the term to Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July for students.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish all of our families all the best for a very happy Christmas.

Yours faithfully

Ms Rutherford, Mrs Forster, Mrs Hurn