



15<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, thank you for your support yesterday when we received news of our first positive covid case. Staff and parents acted swiftly to ensure that isolation measures were put in place to minimise the risk of spread in our school community.

The actions we took were all decided on by using the advice that we received from the DFE.

In light of the positive case yesterday, we have decided to put in additional measures to reduce the amount of contacts for our pupils and staff. From today, we have moved to class bubbles rather than year group bubbles and allocated staff to each bubble. Our classes did have minimal contact before this change; however, they shared the playground at break times and shared spaces in the school across the day such as the ICT suite and music room.

For these three days, we have chosen to stop any contact between classes including break, lunchtime and shared spaces. This will mean if we were to have another positive case before the Christmas break we would only need to ask one class of pupils to isolate.

The children will watch the pantomime in their classrooms and the cinema experience will also take place in the classroom instead of the hall.

I am sure you understand the decision we have taken, and I know staff will ensure your children are not impacted by this change.

#### **Year 5 Remote Learning Offer:**

This morning year 5 pupils and parents were invited to attend a live chat with the year 5 team who outlined the home learning offer for the next 3 days. It is an unusual time as it is the last 3 days so our aim is to provide learning opportunities in line with our curriculum, as well as opportunities for some live communication to keep contact with the school and have some fun!

You will also receive a login for the Kings Theatre via email for your children to enjoy the pantomime at home. Please note, that they will only be able to view this between the hours of 9am and 5pm until Friday 18th December 2020. Can I also ask that you keep these details confidential and not share outside of your household.

**REMINDER: All Year 5 children must follow government guidelines and self-isolate until 21 December. This means that they should not be leaving the house during this time.**

#### **Last day of term: Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

As this is our last day of this term, **children can dress in non-school uniform**. We ask for a £1 donation for school funds that will be spent on purchasing books for our school library.

Please join us at 2pm 'live' on Facebook for our **Carol Concert** in St James Church. All the children in school and at home will hopefully be joining virtually for the experience.

### **Reminder of current DfE guidance on school's implementation of track and trace.**

The Department for Education (DfE) published guidance on how schools should be implementing their track and trace systems over the Christmas period.

- The school will continue to operate its track and trace systems until the 23<sup>rd</sup> December. If your child tests positive between the 18-23<sup>rd</sup> December, you must inform the local authority by emailing [coronavirus.schools@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:coronavirus.schools@portsmouthcc.gov.uk) or phone 02392 841717
- The school will contact you to confirm close contacts and self-isolation period.
- The school will then notify the close contacts via email and text. ONLY those impacted will be contacted. Please ensure you are regularly checking your emails and texts as this will be the only official means of communication during this period. If you are contacted, you will receive an email containing all the information you need to know.
- As advised by government advice - if your child tests positive for Covid-19 or is contacted by the school as a result of close contact, we have a legal responsibility to inform you and you have a legal responsibility to isolate your child for 10 days.

Understandably, no families want to receive a message informing them to self-isolate across the Christmas period, but I would ask you to remember how far we have come, as a nation, and as a local community, so we must continue to follow the national guidance to keep us all safe.

### **I HAVE QUESTIONS, WHO SHOULD I CONTACT?**

The school office will be closed during the Christmas holidays, from Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December until Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

- If you have any medical questions please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- For questions about self-isolation please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/>



## **CHRISTMAS KINDNESS**

### **Christmas Acts of Kindness:**

I have the pleasure this week of delivering 4 large hampers of goodies to our local care homes. These hampers have been made up of donations from our families and staff. Thank you to everyone for being so generous!

Each class in school has also completed an act of kindness with their teachers. Please ask your child, and I am sure that they will tell you all about it.

Thank you once again for all your support this term – I hope you are able to have a great Christmas break and spend some time with your family. I look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year.

Warm Regards

Mrs Sara Paine  
Head teacher