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Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Covid-19 Test and Trace

As we near the Christmas holiday break I wanted to make you aware of some late communication from DFE regarding additional duties placed on school leaders during the Christmas period and how we, as a school, intend to deliver this.

During the Autumn Term, school has assumed an important role as part of the contact tracing service in an effort to assist the national effort to limit the spread of the virus which has led to additional workload over weekends and during holidays. Public Health England has now agreed a 6 day window during which, school will remain responsible and contactable for contact tracing, where necessary. This would mean that leaders in school will effectively be on call until 24th December (Christmas Eve) and potentially staff and children may be instructed to self-isolate in this period.

What does this mean for you?

Parents need to contact school directly following a positive test of their child for COVID-19 dated between 19th – 24th December, **having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school (if symptoms start after 48 hours of their last day in school, you do not need to notify us.)** We will then follow the current school procedure of gathering background information, risk assessing all potential contacts and advising self-isolation accordingly. If you are in the unfortunate position of receiving a positive result for your child within these dates please do not hesitate to contact me directly on Class Dojo or the school email address standrews@durhamlearning.net. Class Dojo and the email inbox will be checked twice a day until 24th December and I will get back to you as soon as possible. **In the email or message please supply your child's name, your contact details and a copy of the test result.**

If someone in your child's bubble receives a positive result and has been in school 48 hours before the onset of symptoms, unfortunately this means you will receive a text from us instructing you that your child MUST self-isolate for 14 days thereafter. As we are at a crucial time in the run up to Christmas, this means that there is a risk that some children will be asked to self-isolate over the 5 Christmas days, which the government have allowed us to mix with two other households, and they will not be able to do this and so now more than ever we all need to take extra measures to prevent this from happening.



Please think about who you are mixing with over the coming week; try and keep children at home, not visiting other households, car sharing with other families, perhaps leave the children at home when shopping if you can and let's do everything we can to prevent us from not seeing our loved ones this Christmas time.

As always, we have the needs of our school community at the very heart of what we do and I would like to thank those who have expressed their gratitude and thanks at this time. Your kind words are really appreciated.

Please help us all to have a safe Christmas by continuing to adhere to government advice about social distancing, wearing a face mask and maintaining high levels of hand hygiene.

Kind regards,

Mrs. N James
Headteacher