



Queen Eleanor's Church of England Junior School  
*An Academy in the Good Shepherd Trust\**  
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Tel: 01483 561323



**"A caring, supportive community, grounded in a Christian ethos, where children are inspired to explore their potential and develop skills for life."**

Headteacher: Jo Davies

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Families,

### **Covid-19 and Christmas Updates**

#### **COVID-19 Cases Update**

I wanted to take this opportunity to explain to you all about the process we have been going through in school this past week. As you will be aware, test results are returned to individuals at any time throughout the day and night. You can appreciate, we do not always have very much time to inform families of the need to self-isolate before the children arrive at school. Therefore, we inform you as soon as we are able to using Parent Pay, telephone calls or class WhatsApp groups. Following this, we then need to contact the Department for Education and Public Health England to report positive cases and seek advice on the next steps we need to take. Due to the number of COVID-19 cases, the DFE and PHE are inundated with calls and very often we do not receive an immediate response. Following the phone call, the school is then issued with templates of communication that need to be sent to all families and a separate letter to the families of children who need to self-isolate. These are the letters that we then send out to you from school. Yesterday afternoon, we received a follow up call from a doctor at PHE who reassured us that all of the measures we had taken, both prior to and during the recent outbreak, were completely in line with the guidance we have received. It was unfortunate that the class WhatsApp groups were circulating rumours that were not accurate. In school at present, we have one positive case in a Year 3 class and 4 in a Year 5 class. Because of this, we had to close two classes and send home Year 5 children who had had school dinners in their year group bubble. We also had to send home a further Year 3 class, not to self-isolate, but because of a shortage of staff members due to self-isolation. As explained in my return to school letter, due to confidentiality, we are unable to tell you who the children or staff members are who have tested positive.

#### **Microsoft Teams**

On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020, the school office issued all parents/carers with a Microsoft Teams help sheet providing all families with details regarding remote learning and how Microsoft Teams could be accessed. All information about the daily meeting, uploading work, creative Friday, marking and work packs was detailed in this letter. The letter explained that you would receive your child's username and password for Teams if they were required to self-isolate. This is not an easy task for the office and we have been extremely impressed with how quickly and efficiently this has taken place, allowing remote learning to commence for every class within 24 hours of the beginning of self-isolation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Queen Eleanor's staff for their hard work and dedication at a very challenging time. All messages of thanks and appreciation have been gratefully received and helped to boost morale – thank you!

#### **Self-Isolation**

It has been brought to my attention in the news that the isolation period may be reduced from 14 days to 10 days. Currently, the information we have received today from PHE is that the self-isolation period of 14 days is still in place. As soon as we receive any different guidance, we will inform you.

#### **Reporting Positive COVID-19 Cases**

Should your child/ren show symptoms related to COVID-19 between finishing school on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December and Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December, please can I ask that you arrange for a test and inform the school office, via email, if their test result is positive. We will need to then carry out Track and Trace procedures.

#### **Breaking up for Christmas**

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, Years 3 and 5 will break up at 1.00pm and Years 4 and 6 at 1.15pm. School will reopen at the usual year group bubble times on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.



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### **Club Provision in the New Year**

We have made the decision to await Government guidance and reassess the situation in school in January before we decide to restart after school clubs. We are aware that this is something that many of our families are keen to see started again but, in the current situation, we feel that as a school, we need to wait to see what January brings forth before allowing external providers back into school.

### **Christmas Message from QE Staff**

With Christmas fast approaching, I would like to thank you all for your continued support and goodwill and to wish you all a very happy and healthy Christmas. The staff at QE have put together a little message for you and the children to enjoy. Please follow the link below.

<https://youtu.be/7iIHS-Vlh6w>

I will be in contact with you all again before the Christmas break. Have a lovely weekend!

Kind regards,

Mrs Davies  
Headteacher