



ST JAMES
C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Principal: Lisa Belfield
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Tuesday 15th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please accept our continued thanks for all of the support and understanding that you have shown us over the past term. It is fair to say that it has been incredibly challenging but as a school family we have got through it together.

In order to support the track and trace process for Covid-19, in the event of positive cases, school has closed class bubbles and identified close and direct contacts of the positive case. Which, as you are aware, led to the class closures this past term. School will continue with this process during the Christmas holidays if the situation of a positive case were to arise. Therefore, it is vital that if your child were to test positive for coronavirus you let school know immediately.

A close and direct contact will be someone who came into contact with the positive case 48 hours before the onset of their symptoms. For example, if a child or staff member were to start showing symptoms on Saturday 19th December and then test positive in subsequent days, school would need to consider who came into contact with that case on Friday 18th and Thursday 17th. This example would then lead to self-isolation for the class bubble and any other close/direct contacts for 10 days starting from the day after their last contact with the case – which would have been Thursday 17th December.

With this information in mind, if your child does start with symptoms up to and including Saturday 19th December and then tests positive, please let us know as they will have had contact with other children and staff on Thursday 17th December. If this situation were to arise, school will text out a link to a letter to those affected informing them that a period of self-isolation for 10 days from last contact would have to begin.

To report a positive case please email the school office at: office@st-james-farnworth.bolton.sch.uk (or direct message us through our school Facebook page) this will be monitored each day up until the 23rd December, as the chances are any positive cases after this date will have had symptoms starting 48 hours clear of Thursday 17th December; you must tell us the date your child started with their symptoms. If your child develops symptoms and then tests positive after this date, please inform us anyway as they might not be back in school on Monday 4th January and then we have the reason why and an expected return to school date. You will then have to use the national track and trace to help identify any close and direct contacts of your child.

Bolton Council have also given schools the go ahead to organise supermarket vouchers for children who are eligible for free school meals. Mrs Williamson is working on this today so hopefully you will get an email from 'Wonde' (NOT Edenedred the company schools used over the first lockdown) giving you the information you require to organise the vouchers; vouchers will be £20 per child per week – you will receive a voucher for £40 per child for the holidays.

If you are unsure of any of this information, then please contact the school office and we will gladly help you or answer any questions.

Your sincerely,

Mrs L Belfield
Principal