



Barnwell Road, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, NN8 5LQ

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Head Teacher: Anne Ansell – BEd (Hons), NPQEL

Deputy Head Teachers: Claire Head NPQH & Simon Anderson

School Business Manager: Lindsay Harris

Chair of Governors: Trevor Kendrick

10th December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

As we near the end of one of the most difficult terms most of us will have experienced in our careers, I would like to start by expressing my thanks to every child, parent, carer and member of staff for working together to keep each other safe. We have been fortunate to have only had a few positive cases across our school and only needed to close one class bubble. This is because we have been careful in our behaviours both inside and outside of school.

Staff are looking forward to spending time with our families and loved ones during the 5 day period over Christmas. We all have to face the reality that a positive case next week could lead to individuals and their contacts having to self-isolate over the festive season. This is a situation that none of us wants.

Two days ago we received a communication from the Department for Education that gave us an option to make Friday 18th December a training day. This is very late in the day to receive this from the DfE and we have considered the implications for families and the children and have decided as a staff that we will not be taking this as an option. **We will remain open on Friday 18th December and this will be our last day of term.**

For contact tracing during the Christmas closure, the guidance from the DfE is as below;

- 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.
- 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. You **must contact the school**.
- School staff are not asked to remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than 6 days after the final day of teaching.



For the first 6 days after the end of term, schools are not asked to be on-call at all times. As the head teacher, I will be responsible for contact tracing and would like all communications of positive test results in the first 6 days, up to and including 24th December to be directed to my email and not the office@ email, please send communication of positive covid tests to head@redwellprimary.co.uk this will mean the communication gets picked up and acted upon within the given timeframe. I will then send a School Ping message to advise close contacts to self-isolate.

Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 6 days following the end of term, schools do not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term on the 'office@' email address as per normal absence reporting procedures. The new term starts for pupils on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Since March 2020 we have had to respond to the ever-changing situation, and since September, to the constant threat of Covid cases impacting on our ability to keep our school open. We are proud of how we have worked together in our community through these difficult times.

Christmas is about spending time with your loved ones and we all hope that you are able to do that safely over the holiday period. From staff and governors at Redwell, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and we look forward together to a happy new year.

Kind regards



Anne Ansell

Head Teacher