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10.12.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

I know this term has been challenging for us all in many ways. We have had to make some difficult decisions in order to keep everyone safe and reduce the spread of the virus, sometimes at very short notice. Thank you to all of you for your understanding and support.

There have been many times this term where families have been asked to self-isolate and I know this has been difficult. This has meant many of you having to work from home, change your childcare arrangements and support your child with their home learning. Thank you.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to all our staff. They have worked tirelessly this term to keep the children happy, safe and learning. When classes have had to close, the learning has continued with daily videos, lots of learning activities and regular phone calls home. I do pass on to them all your messages of thanks which I know has been greatly appreciated.

Change of day – End of Term

Following the announcement from the Government, yesterday you will have received a text informing you that school will now be closed on Friday 18th December and that the **last day of term for children will now be Thursday 17th December. We will finish at our normal time so please collect you children between 3-3.30pm. Children can wear their Christmas Jumpers to school on this Thursday.** Staff teams will use Friday 18th December for professional development, planning, preparation or assessment.

Throughout this pandemic schools have been responsible for the Track and Trace of staff and pupils. The reason for the decision to close a day early is to give school leaders a clear 6 days, from 18 December to 23 December, to oversee any COVID cases within our school community, and so that staff can have a well-deserved entitled holiday from that date. None of us want to be tracking students on Christmas Eve and, worse, emailing you to tell you that your child must self-isolate over Christmas and the New Year!



Department for Education

Please see the information below from the DfE website on possible COVID cases:

- 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.
- School staff will not remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than 6 days after the final day of teaching. Where a schools last teaching day is on Thursday 17 December, there should be no pupil contact tracing asks beyond Wednesday 23 December.



What do you need to do?

- If your child develops symptoms during the Christmas holiday please get a test **immediately**.
- If they test positive for COVID between Friday 18th December and Wednesday 23rd December please email mowens@snowfields.southwark.sch.uk as soon as you get the result. This email address is for all three schools.
- The school will then notify all staff and pupils who had been in direct contact that they need to self-isolate for 14 days.
- If your child tests positive after the 23rd of December please let us know, but no Track and Tracing will be needed.

Going abroad over Christmas?

- Please inform your child's school by Thursday 17th December if you have plans to travel abroad this holiday and which country you are travelling to.
- Remember that your child may have to quarantine on their return and so may not be able to return to school at the start of the term.
- Please see the Government list of countries that require returning passengers to quarantine.

Free School Meals

- If you receive benefit related free school meals (FSM) you will receive your voucher next week for the Christmas holiday.
- If you are not entitled to a benefit related school meal voucher but would like one, contact the school office by Friday 11 December for your voucher to be ordered. This is for all children Nursery to Year 6.

Dates for next week

- Tuesday 15th December Class Parties
- Wednesday 16th December Christmas Dinner and KS2 Talent Show
- Thursday 17th December Christmas Jumpers and last day of term (finish 3.00-3.30pm)
- We will be sharing with you the EYFS and KS1 Christmas Show videos by the end of this week on our website. They will only be available to view until the first week back in January.
- Look out for our "Welcome to our School" videos. They will be on our website soon.

Spring Term

- Children return to school on **Tuesday 5th January**
- From Tuesday 5th January **all** children will need to **arrive between 8.45 – 9.00 am**
- The main school gates will be closed at 9.00 am
- Any child who arrives after 9.00 am will be late

Thank you again for your understanding.

I want to wish you all a safe and happy holiday and look forward to seeing everyone back on Tuesday 5th January.

Kind regards,

K Wooder

Kate Wooder

Executive Headteacher