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Hamsterley Primary School
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'Opening minds, unlocking potential, celebrating success together'

10 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may be aware that the Government have indicated that schools are able to change one of their PD days and take it on Friday 18th December instead. The reason for this is to ensure that the track and trace requirements of the school do not hinder Christmas celebrations and would therefore end on Wednesday 23rd December.

The Government and Local Authority have left this decision up to individual schools. Following a discussion with staff, as well as considering the impact on parents of having to find childcare at the last minute, we have decided not to close the school on Friday 18th December. Our school term dates therefore will remain as they were.

The children will spend Friday 18th December 2020 in school and return to school on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

The Government have requested that we make parents and carers aware of the following information and relevant arrangements regarding positive cases in the holidays:

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 will assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. Therefore parents should contact the school via email at hamsterley@durhamlearning.net if their child develops symptoms by the evening of Sunday 20th December and the school will contact any parents or carers of pupils who may be affected via text or email.

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.

School staff are not asked to remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than 6 days after the final day of teaching. Where a school's last teaching day is on Friday 18th December, there will be no pupil contact tracing beyond Thursday 24th December.

Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case within the Christmas break but after the first 6 days following the end of term, we would not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

S. Kitching

S. Kitching
Headteacher

