

10 December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers



### **School Closure: Friday 18th December**

The Department for Education (DfE) made an announcement this week to recommend that all schools should close for students on Friday 18 December. This is obviously a day earlier than planned. Therefore, there will be no provision in school for students at Brockington College on Friday 18 December, as it will be a disaggregated training day for members of staff. Our final day of term will be Thursday 17 December, when the school will close as normal at 3pm.

The DfE has recognised that this communication has arrived with schools late in the term. However, it is supportive in that it reduces the risk of students and members of staff being identified as close contacts on Friday and having to self-isolate over Christmas. It also ensures that members of the staff team are not contact tracing up to Christmas Eve. We are aware though that his decision will require some parents/carers to make childcare arrangements for children.

### **Urgent: Reporting a positive test case of a child during the Christmas holiday period**

There have unfortunately been a number of positive coronavirus test cases across the Embrace schools during the current term. These have affected both students, families and members of staff.

**For the safety of everyone in your school community, it is essential that all parents/carers:**

1. Contact the school, if your child receives a positive test result, as described below.
2. Check your email at 3pm on the dates given below, to check whether there has been a positive test case in your child's class.

### **When should I contact the school?**

The school must be contacted if your child meets all three of the following criteria:

1. receives a positive test result

AND

2. had symptoms (high temperature or continuous cough or loss of taste or loss of smell) that started on or before Saturday 19 December

AND

3. attended school at any point during the last week of term.

Any positive cases where symptoms were displayed after Saturday 19 December do not require contact with the school, as there will be no close contacts at school during the virus incubation period.

### **How do I contact the school?**

If your child meets the above criteria, you must contact the school by completing the Covid-19 reporting form on the school website homepage <https://www.brockington.leics.sch.uk/>. The school will check this form at 12pm on the following days:

- Friday 18 December
- Saturday 19 December
- Sunday 20 December
- Monday 21 December
- Tuesday 22 December
- Wednesday 23 December

Although parents/carers should only contact the school if your child had symptoms on or before Saturday 19 December, we will be checking for positive test reporting on all the dates given above in the event that test results, during the holiday period, are delayed.

Please note that the school will only respond to positive test cases that meet the criteria given. This communication avenue should not be used otherwise.

### **What action will the school take if they are contacted about a positive test result?**

Senior leaders at the school, and where necessary the trust, will review the information that you have provided about your child's positive test result. If the information indicates that your child has been present at school during the virus incubation period (the incubation period commences two days before symptoms are present), then we will contact the families of other children, and any members of staff, that have been in class with your child and advise that their child self-isolates for a period of fourteen days.

Unfortunately, due to schools being closed over the holiday period, we are unable to access seating plans, measure distances in classrooms or to carry out checks with members of staff. We will only be logistically able to inform parents/carers of the class affected, with advice that your child self-isolates.

### **How will the school contact parents/carers of children that have been in class with a child or member of staff that has received a positive test result?**

The school will contact all parents/carers of any child (and members of staff) that has been in the same classroom, during the incubation period, of a child that ultimately received a positive test result. The school will contact parents/carers by email only. It is therefore very important that ALL parents/carers check their emails at 3pm on the following days, as this is the only method that will be used to alert parents/carers:

- Friday 18 December
- Saturday 19 December
- Sunday 20 December
- Monday 21 December
- Tuesday 22 December
- Wednesday 23 December

### **What action should I take if my child tests positive?**

If your child, or any member of your household, receives a positive test result then all members of the household should self-isolate for fourteen days.

### **What action should I take if the school contacts me to state that my child was in class with a child or member of staff that has had a positive test result**

If your child has been in the same classroom as a member of staff or child that has tested positive, they should self-isolate for fourteen days. Other members of the household do not need to self-isolate unless your child has symptoms and tests positive.

This is a further responsibility that members of staff are committing to at the end of a very busy and trying period for everyone. Please continue to support the school and protect yourself, your family and other families in the community by following the system that we have developed for the holiday period.

I know that you will be looking forward to some time together as a family over the Christmas period, a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the hope that it brings. With vaccines on the horizon, we have further optimism for the future. We wish you the very best for the holiday period and a happier 2021.

Yours sincerely



Mr Chris Southall  
Trust Leader