

9th December 2020

Dear parents,

RE DfE email providing advice for end of term in school

Yesterday at 2.15 I received an email from the DfE- please see below. The email has offered schools an additional INSET day at the end of this term- Friday December 18th. I realise that this is incredibly late notice, however I would like to accept the offer of this day for many reasons. Despite the fact that the DfE have quoted that this day is to "*ensure that staff get the time off they need and deserve*" as you know, INSET days are not a day off for staff. We would like to use this day for online training to support our use of Purple Mash (a learning platform which we will soon be sharing with you). I would also consider this day an additional safety net, enabling your children to stay safe at home for an extra day should you be spending time with other family groups over Christmas. This will therefore mean that school will not be open to children on the Friday. I will liaise with our catering provider to ensure that Christmas lunch is offered to the children on the Thursday instead, as this will then be our last day of term. For information, the cost of this lunch is £2.30.

As you will see there is additional information which I also need to refer you to. I will remain available by email until December 23rd. If any of your children test positive in this time, please email me directly at: headteacher@hollingbourne.kent.sch.uk as this will enable me to work with Public Health England and the local authority as well as other families who may need to be notified as a close contact. If you are in any doubt, please use the contact page on the website as this will also reach me. Of course you can also message me through TEAMS. I ask that you only use this contact for reporting a Corona Virus test.

DfE email 8/12/2020.

End of term – advice for schools

To ensure that staff get the time off they need and deserve, schools may wish to use an INSET day, making Friday 18 December a non-teaching day and using the day for staff training, which could be delivered online...

...You should not limit attendance at school before Friday 18 December. It remains vital for all children to be in school up to the last day of teaching.

We recognise this communication has arrived with schools late in the term but would ask schools to be as helpful to parents as they can by sharing any changes to end of term arrangements as soon as possible, particularly where schools choose to make Friday 18 December a non-teaching day. Your support with this is appreciated.

We recommend all schools ensure staff, parents and carers are aware of the following information and relevant arrangements regarding positive cases in the holidays:

Contact us

Website – www.hollingbourne.kent.sch.uk

Telephone – 01622 880270

E-mail – office@hollingbourne.kent.sch.uk

Find us

Eyhorne St

Hollingbourne

Maidstone ME17 1UA

“A learning community– developing hearts and minds”

- *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 are not asked to 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.*

I would like to thank you all for your incredible support this term in keeping your children safe. We are delighted that so far we have still had no positive cases in school. This is thanks to your commitment as well as that of the staff team.

We would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas. We hope that 2021 proves to be happy and healthy!

Kind regards,

Mrs Bradley-Wyatt and the Hollingbourne team.

Contact us

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