



Bussage C. of E. (Aided) Primary School
The Ridgeway, Bussage, Stroud, Glos.
GL6 8FW

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11th December 2020

Dear Parents,

Nearly there:

Well after a long and different term, we are nearly ready to finish for a well-earned Christmas break. However, we are not there yet!

Test and Trace over the holidays:

Public Health England have advised us on what parents should do in relation to contacting the school if their child develops COVID-19 symptoms over the Christmas break. This advice is to enable school to assist in Track and Trace:

- Where a child or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, having developed symptoms **more than 48 hours since being in school**, 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, having developed symptoms **within 48 hours of being in school**, the school will be asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. To be clear within 48 hours would mean **Friday 18th December, Saturday 19th December** up until the evening of **Sunday 20th December**.

I am sorry to labour the point but I sometimes find the guidance a bit wordy and need concrete examples to help me.

***Example one:** Child develops a cough and high temperature on Monday 21st December. The parents follow advice and have the child tested. The result comes back on Wednesday 23rd December as a positive. The parents do **not** contact the school because the symptoms developed after 48 hours had elapsed from the end of term.*

***Example two:** Child develops a cough and high temperature on Saturday 19th December. The parents follow advice and have the child tested. The result comes back on Wednesday 23rd December as a positive. The parents inform me so that I can begin to Track and Trace all potential contacts of that child and inform the families of the need for that child to self-isolate. This is because the symptoms developed before 48 hours had elapsed from the end of term.*



If you need to contact the school about a COVID-19 case, please e-mail on: admin@bussage.gloucs.sch.uk this e-mail address will be checked once a day. I will be informed of any cases and remain contactable throughout. I will contact the Department for Education (DfE) coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline and follow their advice and assist with contact tracing as necessary over the first 6 days, including Thursday 24th December. The DfE believe this time window will allow enough time for positive COVID-19 cases to be identified and confirmed by a test and for relevant contacts in school to be traced. If I need to contact you in relation to Track and Trace in the holidays it will be through the school text/e-mail service.

This is why in my last newsletter I urged you all to maintain vigilance and care, to help ensure that everyone gets the Christmas they deserve. Unlike universities, schools are carrying on up to 18th December. I want to thank you again for your continued support.

Rainbows and Key Stage 1 Christmas Performances:

The Rainbows Wriggly Nativity is available to view and parents have been given the link.

Due to some technical issues with Google, we are going to attempt to put the **Year 1 Whoops-A-Daisy Angel** and the **Year 2 Christmas with the Aliens** on to our school YOUTUBE channel. This will be unlisted which means that parents can only access the content directly through the link which we will send out to them. I am sorry for the confusion but what was thought to be a relatively straightforward task has turned into a truly monumental undertaking. If there are any technically minded parents out there who can solve the problem of sharing a 4GB video file with each and every parent in a time efficient manner, believe me when I say "I would love to hear from you". This has taken a huge effort from all of the staff to make this possible and I am sure you will all want to join me in congratulating them and thanking them all for a wonderful job well done! This has been a completely different experience for children and staff alike. You will all be informed once the plays are available for viewing.

It begins in Bethlehem:

The children will be coming home with some Christmas activity books provided by the Open the Book group who visited our school on a regular basis pre-pandemic. I would like to thank them for this kind gift at this time of year and I look forward to inviting them back into school at some point in the future.

Kind regards

A Ferguson

Head Teacher

