



Rusper Primary School, Rusper, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 4PR

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office@rusper.w-sussex.sch.uk

www.rusperprimary.eschools.co.uk

Headteacher: Nick Avey (BEd Hons)

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RPS Update 11.12.2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all well.

Some parents may be aware that the DfE has recently provided advisory guidance to support schools with managing the end of this term. It has been suggested that schools could adjust their INSET day schedule and close for INSET on Friday 18th December. Please be advised that Rusper will not be closing on the 18th December. This decision is in line with 12 other Primary schools in the Horsham East partnership. Parents may also wish to see the attached letter from Paul Wagstaff, Director of Education for West Sussex, which provides more detail on this point.

The DfE has specifically announced guidelines for how schools should support Coronavirus 'Test and Tracing' at the beginning of the Christmas break. Essentially, schools are required to advise families of the need to isolate should there be a positive COVID test for either a child or a staff member who may have come into contact with your child. This expectation has been the same throughout the Autumn Term, and is also required for the start of the Christmas break. The reason for this is that if a child or staff member develops symptoms **within 48hrs of the last day of term** - Friday 18th December, then there is the possibility of transmission within the school community. Thus, it is the school's responsibility, to support transferring the message to isolate out to all who may have been in contact.

What follows is a very important set of instructions that the school asks all parents to comply with please. All school staff will follow similar protocols.

1. If your child develops Coronavirus symptoms at any point, please seek and undertake a COVID test.
2. Please note when the symptoms first appeared in the child.
3. If the test is returned negative there is no need for any further action, apart from that which applies to your own family.
4. If the test is returned positive, and the symptoms first appeared on or after 21st December, there is no need to take any immediate action in relation to school; but families must follow all national guidelines requiring household members to isolate, and in following instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
5. If the test is returned positive, and the symptoms first appeared **before or up to within 48hours of the last day of term**, you must notify the school.
6. Notifying the school should be done via email to head@rusper.w-sussex.sch.uk



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7. Please note, the DfE guidelines require that schools are only to support in contacting positive cases (as in point 5) for the 6 days following the 18th December. Thus no contact should be made to the school after the 24th December.

Should the headteacher receive a positive notification that fits the criteria under point 5, a process will then be undertaken to communicate with all families whose child may have come into contact with the virus. The contact will be a recommendation to isolate, and a request to consider who else they have been in contact with since break up from school.

Of course, it is sincerely hoped that none of the above steps are required, and that all can have as safe and enjoyable a Christmas as possible.

If you would like to discuss any of this further, please do make contact with the school at your earliest convenience.

Thank you again for your ongoing commitment and support in all matters, and please stay extra safe.

Kind regards

Nick Avey, Headteacher, Rusper Primary School



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