



9th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Information for Parents regarding COVID-19 Contact Tracing over the Christmas Holiday period. All Barnet schools have been asked by the Local Authority to send this letter to families today or as soon as possible.

I am writing to clarify the expectations around reporting cases of COVID-19 and undertaking contact tracing over the Christmas holiday period.

As you know schools have played a vital role in reducing the spread of COVID-19 over the last 9 months. One way in which they have done this is by undertaking contact tracing on behalf of the London Contact Tracing team. They identify and contact any individuals who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, during the time that is considered the contagious period. This is from 2 days before the person's recognised COVID-19 symptoms are displayed. Those individuals are then required to self-isolate for 14 days because they are at risk of having contracted COVID-19.

This contact tracing will not be taking place in the usual way during the Christmas break when schools are closed and there is less chance of school-based contacts existing.

Please follow the guidance below, received from the DfE today, if your child begins to show symptoms of COVID-19 during the Christmas break:

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 within 48 hours of being in school (for our school that is either on Friday 18th or Saturday 19th December)

You must seek a test for your child and the household must isolate at home until the test result is returned. You should let your school know that this has occurred (please email office@qegschool.org.uk).

The quickest way to obtain a test is to book a test at your local testing centre via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

If the test result is positive for COVID-19, you must inform your school (please email office@qegschool.org.uk), who will identify if there are any other individuals within the school community who are impacted by this.

If you are contacted by your school and your child is identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, she must self-isolate for 14 days.

If the test result is negative, you should inform the school and you do not need to take any further action.

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 more than 48 hours after their last day in school (for our school, on Sunday 20th December onwards)

You must seek a test for your child and the household must isolate at home until the test result is returned.

If the test result is positive for COVID-19, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, (for our school, on Sunday 20th December onwards), you must contact NHS Test and Trace and follow the advice given by them: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/

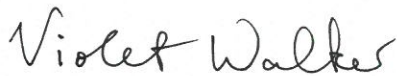
You should contact the school regarding absence, in the usual way, in time for the first day of the new term on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

If the test result is negative, you should inform the school and you do not need to take any further action.

I would encourage you to adhere to social distancing and all COVID-19 social mixing guidance for the remainder of term to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus, as the last thing we want is anyone being unwell or required to self-isolate over the holiday period.

Thank you for your co-operation and ongoing support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Violet Walker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V'.

Violet Walker
Headteacher