



# Brighstone C.E Aided Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs R. Lennon

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Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear parents and carers,

You may have heard in the news that the government are suggesting that schools could finish on Friday 18<sup>th</sup>, instead of Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December (our last day of term has already been planned to be Friday 18<sup>th</sup>). This will avoid the possibility of schools being contacted on Christmas Day if there is a case of Covid; see the information sent to schools from the Department for Education (DfE) below:

*Public Health England has agreed a 6 day window after the final day of teaching in which schools and further education providers are asked to remain contactable so they can assist with contact tracing where necessary. This will allow enough time for positive coronavirus (COVID-19) cases to be identified and confirmed by a test and for relevant contacts in the education setting to be traced. We are clear that beyond 6 days after the final day of teaching, school and further education staff are not asked to play a role in any contact tracing. It is also likely that the need to support the tracing process will reduce dramatically over the course of the 6 days as the majority of cases should be identified earlier in the week.*

The DfE are suggesting that children finish on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>, and make Friday 18<sup>th</sup> a staff training day (INSET): ‘schools may wish to consider adjusting term dates to make Friday 18 December the last day of term (which could be an INSET day), and bringing forward the start of term in January by the same number of days.’

However, as the IOW school term is already starting on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, that would mean that IOW schools return to school between Christmas and New Year for one day, which I’m sure would be inconvenient for families. We also believe that this is very short notice for working parents to find childcare for Friday 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Therefore, we have decided to continue with our original plans: the last day of term is Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December.**

The DfE has asked that all parents and carers are made aware of the following information and relevant arrangements regarding positive cases in the holidays:

- *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.*
- *For the first 6 days after the end of term, schools are not asked to be on-call at all times. Staff responsible for contact tracing may designate a limited period in the day to receive notification of positive cases and advise close contacts to self-isolate (this can be done by text or email). The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline and PHE advice service are available to support with any queries you have about positive cases in your school.*

*Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 6 days following the end of term, schools do not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term.*

**If your child develops symptoms within 48 hours of the last day they were in school (Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December) and tests positive for Covid-19, please contact the school by emailing [office@brighstoneprimary.org.uk](mailto:office@brighstoneprimary.org.uk) – we will check this email account each day between 1pm – 4pm throughout the holidays until Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December.**

If you have any questions about the above information, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Many thanks for your understanding,

Mrs Lennon