



Green Park Avenue, Bilston, West Midlands, WV14 6EH 01902 556429/30
greenparkschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk

10th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all staying safe and keeping well. I appreciate the support you have given to school over the last few months and your hard work to keep children enjoying their school days.

I am writing to you with an update following the recent media news about the DfE release earlier this week. We have discussed the advice on taking an INSET day on Friday 18th December and have decided that our school will be closing to pupils. We apologise for the short notice but I am sure you appreciate the guidance was only just shared with school settings.

Our school leaders will continue to work during the Christmas period to support pupils, parents and staff in the important role of contact tracing, to help in the national effort to limit the spread of the virus. 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. For the first 6 days after the end of term parents need to be vigilant that we might contact you by school text to say your child has been in contact with a positive case and needs to self-isolate as a precaution for 14 days . We will work with PHE on advice and share an end date for the self-isolation period with you.

The DfE recognise the communication has arrived with schools late in the term but have asked schools to be as helpful to parents as they can, by sharing any changes to end of term arrangements as soon as possible. They also recommend all schools ensure staff, parents and carers are 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



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assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. **Parents should email school on greenparkschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk and we will check these daily between 8am-10am.** Please be prepared that we might then text other parents via the normal school text service advising that your child needs to self-isolate and we will provide a date for the end of that period once confirmed by PHE.

- The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline and PHE advice service will be available to support school with any queries you have about positive cases in your school.
- As the schools last teaching day is on Thursday 17 December, there should be no pupil or staff contact tracing asked beyond Wednesday 23 December.

Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case **after the first 6 days following the end of term e.g. from 24th December** schools do not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term.

We wish you and your families a very happy Christmas break and welcome everyone back to school on Monday 4th January.

Kind regards

Mrs Lorraine Dawney

Headteacher