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'Placing learning at the heart of everything we do'

11th December 2020



Merry Christmas



Well, here are rapidly approaching the end of 2020 with Christmas now in touching distance. We can look back on a year that none of us will forget and the children will no doubt be able to reflect on with their own children in years to come when it becomes part of schools History curriculum.

From talking to people, it would seem that Christmas is going to follow the same pattern as the rest of 2020 and be a little different this year. However, please enjoy the festivities whatever they look like this year, keep yourselves safe and I look forward to welcoming everyone back, hopefully fighting fit on **Wednesday 6th January 2021**

Next Week

Monday 14 th Dec	Tuesday 15 th Dec	Wednesday 16 th Dec	Thursday 17 th Dec	Fri 18 th Dec
Santa Fun Run & Christmas Jumper Day	Christmas Party Afternoon for all classes. Non-school uniform	Christmas Movie Afternoon	Christmas Dinner Day /Christmas Jumpers can be worn	<u>Early Finish</u>

Early Finish

We will, as usual, have an early finish on Friday 18th December. Ducklings, Goslings, Pufflings & Cygnet will finish at 12.30pm, Teal, Eider & Sandpiper will finish at 12.50pm, Curlew, Avocet & Mallard will finish at 1.10pm

Track & Trace

During the middle of last week, the government asked schools to consider making the last day of term (Friday 18th December) an INSET Day. By making this a day when pupils are not in school, the government hoped to ensure that any track and trace processes (needed when a pupil tests positive for C-19) can then be completed before 24th December. Priestley did consider this course of action, but due to the extremely late notice and the fact that we already had two TD Days booked in for January it was decided to continue as planned, finishing school at lunchtime on Friday 18th December.

They have also published their requirements with regards to 'Track & Trace' over the Christmas period. These are as follows:

- *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 for track and trace processes. 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. Where a school's last teaching day is on Thursday 17th December, there should be no pupil contact tracing beyond Wednesday 23rd December.*
- *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 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.*

So, therefore, we are asking that if your child does return a positive COVID-19 test during those first few days of the holiday whilst having started to have symptoms during the last couple of days of term that you let the school know asap via emailing ask@priestley.wilts.sch.uk, leaving the child's name & date of positive test. This email address will be accessed up until the 24th December for this purpose.

So, with all these exceptional circumstances in mind we will be holding our final Teams 'Star of the Term' Assembly on Thursday morning. Therefore, any absence on Friday 18th December will on this occasion be authorised.

Priestley & Proud

A Marsh-Ballard

Mr Marsh-Ballard
Headteacher