



18th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As outlined in the Christmas newsletter, there is so much to celebrate and so much to be thankful for. In this letter, I'd like to point out some key pieces of information around COVID tracing and testing and the return to school in January.

COVID and Contact Tracing – Up to and including 24th December 2020

If your child **tests positive** for coronavirus (COVID-19) **and has been in school within 48 hours of the test result or of developing symptoms**, then please contact us directly between the hours of 7.00am and 6.00pm.

- Phone: 07767 427 916
- Email: contact@stbedeslytham.lancs.sch.uk

Contact Tracing from December 25th 2020

From December 25th, the contact tracing will be conducted by NHS England and not through schools.

School-Based Covid Testing in 2021

The government confirmed yesterday their intention to introduce a programme of school-based Coronavirus testing in the new year. We are awaiting further information about the programme and of course will update you when arrangements are clearer. Please be assured that we will not progress with this without the full consent and involvement of parents.

Staggered Return to School in January 2021

Alongside the announcement of the testing programme, the Department for Education (DfE) declared that there would be a staggered return to school at the start of January for all secondary school pupils.

- ONLY pupils in Year 11, vulnerable children and children of critical workers will attend school from the start of term on Monday, 4th January. The timings of the school day will be unchanged for this week and subsequent weeks. Provision of school transport and catering will all take place as normal.
- All other pupils should not return to school on the 4th January but will be provided with full-time remote education. Lessons and accompanying resources will be provided on Firefly or via Zoom according to the needs of pupils and of each subject.
- All pupils will return to a normal full school week commencing on Monday, 11th January. Pupils will not need to have been tested before returning to school.

The DfE have suggested that schools may use the Monday 4th January as an INSET day to prepare for the testing programme. At the time of writing, we are awaiting further information about this from the DfE. Until this information is received, I am not in a position to be more specific at this stage. However please be assured that in the week before we return to school, I will provide a full update on the arrangements.

In the meantime, I wish you and your families a safe, happy and peaceful Christmas.

With kind regards,

P. Grice
Headteacher