

Tuesday 8th December 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

During the final two weeks of the term, the festive spirit has arrived at Exeter a Learning Community. With the Christmas tree arriving last week to school and children beginning to talk about Advent, next week the children will begin to take part in Christmas activities so it's certainly feeling a lot like Christmas!

My continued thanks for your support by following the expectations to maintain the safety of children, families and staff members. In school we have worked hard to uphold the tightest of measures to keep children safe. As we approach the Christmas time, I encourage you to strictly follow the current Government guidelines with regard to Covid safety.

We must work together to prevent a class of children and the staff within it, being required to isolate over Christmas time. Any positive cases or possible contact with a positive case after the 11th December means that that child or family will be required to isolate over the school holiday, including Christmas day. This means no mixing with friends or family or going out to shops or venues.

To bring the possibility of cases down further, we ask in the last week:

- **Children only bring in their water bottle and lunchbox.**
- **Reading books are not to be brought in or sent home.**
- **No Christmas cards to be brought in (deadline for this is Friday 11th December)**

Even though the national lockdown is over, Corby is still in a high tier area and the rules are that there should be **no mixing** in homes at all, except for the period of 5 days (23rd-27th) with only 3 families. Many children have been talking about sleepovers at friends and visiting friends and family over the weekend, this is causing concern for other families and staff.

In school, since our return we have been following Covid guidelines and are fortunate that we have not had to close any bubbles. This is thanks to those who have followed procedures and informed us of suspected and positive cases quickly ensuring that we can protect everyone in the community and minimise the spread. I also would like to give a huge thank you to our cleaners and site management team who have worked tirelessly throughout each day ensuring the school is continually cleaned and sanitised. We do however know that a case could be confirmed anywhere at anytime. For this reason we will be making changes to our curriculum timetable over the last week of term to limit the number of contacts a child has in school.

With news of a vaccine being rolled out, we look towards a brighter future, but in the meantime, we must demonstrate our values and resilience for our children and community.

Please help to ensure that the whole community can enjoy a break with family over the holiday period by supporting us all with safety and hygiene precautions and following government rules as we look forward to a fun and festive few weeks with our children.

Thank you for your continued support,

Matthew Shotton and Melanie Saunders

