



Lichfield Down, Walnut Tree, Milton Keynes, MK7 7BW
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17th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We have done it! The holidays are upon us. It has been a long and successful term and we would like to say a massive thank you to you all for support this year. Luckily, we have managed, so far to avoid any large outbreaks within the school. Our attendance this year has consistently been well above national figures so once again thank you for all of your efforts.

However, the national and local picture is always changing and we will carefully monitor the situation and guidance from the Department of Education and Public Health England over the next two weeks. All school have been asked to update their contingency plans in the event they may need to be actioned for the new term. In the event that our current arrangements need to be changed we will of course keep you informed.

A reminder that the updated [Schools COVID-19 Operational Guidance](#) now states the following:

Tracing close contacts and isolation (Page 5) -

Close contacts in schools are now identified by NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parents to identify close contacts.

Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. You may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.

From 14 December 2021, adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result.

Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are:

- fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine
- all children and young people aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status
- people who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine

Children under 5 years are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily testing of close contacts.

Pupils with SEND identified as close contacts should be supported by their school and their families to agree the most appropriate route for testing including, where appropriate, additional support to assist swabbing. For further information please see [SEND guidance](#).

Headteacher: Mrs J. Edwards B.A (Hons)
Deputy Head: Mrs C. Gardner-Potter B.Ed (Hons)

Chair of Governors: Mr K. Gowans
Business Manager: Mrs V. Jewell



If your child tests positive for Covid over the holidays, please contact the school by email – heronsgate@mket.org.uk so we can continue to monitor the situation.

Please see the links below for further guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Finally, we would like to wish you all a very merry, health and safe Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you all in 2022.

J Edwards

Jane Edwards
Headteacher

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