



Thursday 10th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID safe arrangements in readiness for Christmas

We have been contacted by several families asking about our plans for Christmas following the Government announcement this week that schools can close on Thursday 17th December.

The Government's reason for this is to ensure that any track and trace work the school are required to undertake is completed before Christmas Eve. Since the start of the pandemic last year, it has been an expectation for us to manage tracing of our pupils, families and staff who may have been close contacts of confirmed cases, to provide advice and to report numbers and actions to the Local Authority and the DFE. This has continued through all holiday periods and our school also took the decision to open to pupils during school holidays. Staff and governors recognise the need for schools to be open for pupils and families and since February Half term 2019 the school has only been closed for 12 days.

We have been proud to support our community in this way, but do recognise how tired children and staff have become as we reach the end of the most challenging Autumn term. With bubble closures, families isolating, staff isolating and the small number of positive cases we have experienced, it has been a very unpredictable and changeable period of time. Thank-you so much to our families who have supported our work over the past few months and responded so quickly to any isolation requests. It is no wonder the children are tired and ready to enjoy some time at home with their families *without home learning!*

What Will Christ Church Do?

We have consulted with our Chair of Governors to determine the following actions for next week:

- **School will be open as usual all week** – we have decided not to close early as there may be insufficient time for families to arrange childcare
- If families have specific circumstances over Christmas; for example, they may be seeing vulnerable relatives and want their children to **isolate prior to this**, please email the school office and we will call back to see how we can support you.
- If families wish to collect their children **early on Friday 18th December** (as they may have older children in other schools who are finishing early or other such reasons) they may arrange a pick up from our school between **1.30pm and 2pm, if they have notified the school office by noon on Thursday 17th**
- **CC4C will close at 5pm on Friday 18th December** so that staff have time to clean all equipment and tidy away prior to the premises team completing a through holiday cleaning programme



@CCMPprimary and @ChristchurchMor

We hope these arrangements will support families' various individually circumstances whilst making sure children can continue with their education in the run up to Christmas.

What if someone develops COVID symptoms next week?

We will continue to manage symptoms in the same way as we have throughout the year; the child or adult with symptoms will be isolated and requested to have a test. Whilst waiting for the test result anyone in the household should isolate. If the test result is positive, we will then inform close contacts of the need to isolate for 14 days; if the test result is negative they may return to school once they are well.

What if someone develops symptoms over the Christmas Holidays?

If a member of our school community becomes unwell with a high temperature, new continuous cough or loss of taste / smell please arrange for them to access a COVID19 test. If the result is positive, please notify the school on the following email:

schooloffice@christchurch-moreton.wirral.sch.uk

I will check this email daily with the exception of 25th and 26th December and will provide advice to families affected, including where it may be necessary to isolate as a close contact. *No other emails will be responded to during the Christmas holidays so please ensure you have COVID19 in the subject heading.*

What are the restrictions during Christmas?

Please remember that Wirral is a Tier 2 area within the country's three-tier COVID-19 local restrictions system, and will only move to the three household Christmas bubble arrangements from 23rd – 27th December. A clear overview of what this means we can and can't do is included at the end of this letter.

Do Christ Church have any confirmed cases?

We are pleased to have all bubbles present in school at the moment and thank you all very much for working with us to keep everyone safe – the recent lockdown has definitely reduced the rate of transmission locally! I asked Public Health England to look at our previous positive cases and they confirmed that they have all been from external community contacts and not transmitted in school; which demonstrates that our cleaning, distancing, masks and handwashing is working well to keep children and adults safe.

We currently have one member of staff still recovering from COVID and one who has recently tested positive; neither require families to take any action or isolate. We are asking all families to ensure pupils are tested should they present with any COVID symptoms and will keep you all updated as necessary. Thank-you so much for your continued support, please make sure that your child does not return in January if they are unwell.

Wirral residents can now access local testing if they **do not have symptoms**. It is a free service with results returned in 1 hour. Click the following link to find out more:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/covid-19-testing/covid-19-tests-people-who-do-not-have-symptoms>

Tests for those who **do have symptoms** can be accessed via this link:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/covid-19-testing/covid-19-testing-people-who-have-symptoms>

Celebrating Christmas in school

We are trying to keep everything as 'normal' for the children as possible, whilst making things safe and in line with our risk assessments. Just a reminder, children are able to bring in Christmas cards for their year bands

that will put set aside in a post-box and safely given out next week. The deadline for cards is tomorrow - Friday 11th of December so that they can be set aside before being given out. Please check the email from the school office about the Christmas activities that we have planned, including Christmas dinner and the Christmas service next week.

Information about our Church's Christmas services can be accessed via their website:

<https://www.christchurchmoreton.org.uk/>

Gifts

Finally, some parents have asked if they would be able to bring in a Christmas gift or card for their child's teacher. There is no expectation for you to do this, however if this is something you would like to, please ensure these are brought into school no later than 16th December so that teachers can set them aside before taking them home at the end of term.

Many thanks for your continued support, may this period of Advent bring you all hope for 2021 and the joy of Christmas give everyone in our community peace and happiness with their families.

Amanda Donelan
Headteacher

What can I do at Christmas?



Three households* can form a temporary "Christmas bubble" from 23-27 Dec**



They can mix indoors in private homes and stay overnight



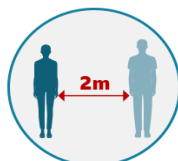
No travel restrictions in the five-day period



You can't go to a pub or restaurant with your bubble



If you have coronavirus symptoms or are self-isolating you cannot join a bubble



You can meet people outside your Christmas bubble outdoors, but only in line with rules of the tier where you are staying

TIER 2 HIGH ALERT

FROM 2 DEC

<p>MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY </p> <p>No mixing of households indoors, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six outdoors.</p>	<p>BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS </p> <p>Pubs and bars must close, unless operating as restaurants. Hospitality venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals. Venues must stop taking orders at 10pm and must close by 11pm.</p>	<p>RETAIL </p> <p>Open.</p>	<p>WORK AND BUSINESS </p> <p>Everyone who can work from home should do so.</p>
<p>EDUCATION </p> <p>Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open. Children, other supervised activities for children, and childcare bubbles permitted.</p>	<p>INDOOR LEISURE </p> <p>Open.</p>	<p>ACCOMMODATION </p> <p>Open.</p>	<p>PERSONAL CARE </p> <p>Open.</p>
<p>OVERNIGHT STAYS </p> <p>Permitted with household or support bubble.</p>	<p>WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS </p> <p>15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships, wedding receptions and wakes; 30 for funerals.</p>	<p>ENTERTAINMENT </p> <p>Open.</p>	<p>PLACES OF WORSHIP </p> <p>Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.</p>
<p>TRAVELLING </p> <p>Reduce the number of journeys you make and walk or cycle if possible. Avoid busy times and routes on public transport. Avoid car sharing with those outside of your household or support bubble. Avoid entering a Tier 3 area, other than where necessary such as for work or education. Further exemptions apply.</p>	<p>EXERCISE </p> <p>Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but cannot take place indoors if there is any interaction between people from different households. Organised activities for elite athletes, under-18s and disabled people can continue.</p>	<p>RESIDENTIAL CARE </p> <p>COVID-secure arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits. Outdoor/airtight visits only (rollout of rapid testing will enable indoor visits including contact).</p>	<p>LARGE EVENTS </p> <p>Sport, live performances and business meetings limited to 50% capacity or 2000 people outdoors (whichever is lower) and 50% capacity or 1000 people indoors (whichever is lower).</p>

Find out what support you can get

For example, if you're out of work, need to get food, or want to take care of your mental health.

[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

If you have any coronavirus symptoms:

A high temperature • A new, continuous cough
A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste.

Get a test and stay at home

For more information and detailed guidance visit:
[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

