



The John of Gaunt School

A Community Academy

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we near the end of term, I know that we are all looking forward to the holidays and the chance to celebrate Christmas with our loved ones. Earlier this week the Department for Education (DfE) issued guidance to schools about the end of term and the part that schools need to continue to play in supporting contact tracing during the first week of the holidays. They have stated the following:

***“Public Health England has agreed a 6-day window after the final day of teaching in which schools and further education providers are asked to remain contactable so they can assist with contact tracing where necessary. This will allow enough time for positive coronavirus (COVID-19) cases to be identified and confirmed by a test and for relevant contacts in the education setting to be traced.” (DFE)***

Clearly, we hope that during the remaining days of term we do not have any positive cases of COVID-19 within our school community, as this could now mean isolation periods run through the Christmas holiday. We really want to do all we can to avoid this. Therefore, please can we ask you be especially vigilant and not send children into school if they are unwell or have any sign of being unwell. Infections are not of course anybody's fault, but if we can all work together on this, we can reduce the likelihood of a disrupted holiday season. As we know, it has been a long term and we would dearly love all our families within our school community to be able to enjoy this special time of the year.

We ask that you continue to inform the school of confirmed cases, even if this is in the Christmas holiday. If your child has a positive case please email me directly at [pskipp@jogschool.org](mailto:pskipp@jogschool.org) Should a case be identified I will be working with Public Health Wiltshire, the Local Authority and the Department for Education to advise all potential contacts to isolate for the appropriate time.

If we remain extremely careful and follow the guidelines over the last few days of term, we can, hopefully, avoid members of our school community having to isolate during the holidays.

As always, many thanks for your support.

Paul Skipp  
Headteacher