

The Beacon Folkestone

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Dear Parents/Carers,

It feels like just as we started to find our way to a new normal and were getting comfortable with our safety measures as a community, things were shaken up with a second lockdown. I am glad we have come through the difficulties of lockdown, yet unfortunately as the Kent R rate has risen, we also have seen an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in school. Thankfully all those affected are on the way to making a full recovery. We have been greatly affected by the isolation requirements, with approximately two-thirds of our staff and pupils off at times during this term. I am so pleased we coordinated small bubble sizes from September, this has meant we have not been facing the prospect of whole school closures that many have undertaken during this time.

A huge thanks to everyone in our community, we have collectively remained resilient and have worked together to keep each other as safe as possible. We have all had moments of worry and concern and let's be honest times of frustration as your children/our pupil's routines and learning has been disrupted. You have done a fabulous job and we really appreciate it.

We have endeavoured to keep some sense of normality during this Christmas period, today sees The Beacon providing a full scale Christmas lunch experience to a third of the children across the school. It was super to see the photos of people at home and in school sharing the experiences of Christmas jumper day. I'm not sure there wasn't a bit of Christmas magic in the air to get the Christmas market place event successfully completed. It's these simple yet powerful ways that help us stay connected and enjoy this festive period together.

We hope that the return to school in January sees some form of positive momentum and the R rate falling across our district. To keep us all as safe as possible we will continue to teach in class based bubbles for all lessons, with form tutors leading the learning in these classes. This had a significant impact, enabling us to reopen large amounts of zone 3 last week.

With our thoughts of safety and care ever at the forefront of our minds, can I refer you to the need for ongoing information sharing with the school if one of our pupils does contract COVID during the holiday break.

IMPORTANT: The Beacon Folkestone – School Based Track and Trace Throughout Christmas

Although we are heading toward the end of term, the importance of continuing to track and trace any positive COVID-19 cases remains a priority. There is an expectation from the Government that we continue to ensure we are keeping you and our community as safe as possible.

With this in mind if you do test positive for COVID-19 or are informed you need to isolate at any time during the Christmas break (Thursday 17th December – Sunday 3rd January) then please contact us to let us know and then we inform those who may have been a close

contact with to take the appropriate actions to keeps themselves and those around them safe.

The email address to contact is: Sasha.Gooding@thebeacon.kent.sch.uk

This email address will be checked between 10am and 11am daily. Any relevant information letters for advice and isolation requirements will be sent out following the receipt of the information. This will be via email or a shorter message in a text based system (where we hold your current and up to date telephone and email information).

The following details are required when leaving an email to log a positive case (if you are using an electronic copy of this letter please feel free to copy and paste this table into your email):

Pupils Name	
Pupils date of birth	
Contact phone number	
Class your child is in	
What date they became symptomatic	
What date the test was confirmed as positive	
What date were they were last in school	
Other pupils (outside of the class/bubble) they may have been in contact with (the two days before they became symptomatic)	
Transport provider – eg parents, shared lift or taxi	
Last date of isolation (where known)	

Information reminder about “contacts”:

Direct close contacts: Face to face contact with a person with a positive coronavirus test result, for any length of time within 1m, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, unprotected physical contact (skin to skin). This includes exposure within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer.

Proximity contacts: Extended close contact (within 2m for more than 15 minutes) with a person with a positive coronavirus test result.

Small vehicle contacts: Travelled in a small vehicle with a person with a positive coronavirus test result.

Identified direct close contacts, proximity contacts or small vehicle contacts should be excluded from school/college/nursery for 10 days from the last point of contact with the case. They should be advised to self-isolate at home, monitor for symptoms and request a coronavirus test if they develop symptoms.

Household contacts of close/proximity/vehicle contacts do not need to self-isolate.

Household contacts: This includes anyone who lives/sleeps in the same home as a person. If a household contact has tested positive for coronavirus, then the whole household contacts group are advised to self-isolate at home for 10 days and monitor for symptoms. If they develop symptoms they should be tested for coronavirus.

We would like to be starting the year largely COVID free and really hope that after a safe, restful and enjoyable Christmas period all the pupils and staff return to the Beacon raring to go!

Have a thoroughly enjoyable Christmas, you all deserve the break and to enjoy this time with your families.

Yours sincerely



Ady Young