



# Lessness Heath Primary School

Erith Road, Belvedere, Kent. DA17 6HB

Telephone 01322 433290

Head Teacher – Miss A Bolton

Respect Belonging Co-operation Honesty Perseverance Responsibility

9<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well during these extraordinary times. I am writing to you in advance of the start of the Christmas holiday following the DFE announcement on 8<sup>th</sup> December instructing schools that the last day of face to face teaching is on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December. This letter is to confirm what to expect as we approach the end of term. In line with guidance from the Department for Education, we will continue to keep the school open as usual and the last day of this term will be **Thursday 17th December**. Children will finish school at normal time on this day – there will be no early finish.

As a school, we want to make the rest of term as festive, and as normal, as possible for the children, despite not being able to do the usual Nativity shows and other traditional events. While considering the important measures in place to keep our pupils and staff safe, we have the plans in place to keep the classrooms full of cheer. We know the children are really looking forward to these activities, as are we!

I know that after this unbelievable year, everyone is very much looking forward to spending time, whether in person or virtually, with family and friends and loved ones. Whatever your plans are this season, it will no doubt look very different to what you might have otherwise planned had circumstances been different.

These are of course very trying times for everyone, and I understand there may be some apprehension about the possibility of a need for anyone to have to self-isolate over Christmas. With continuing high rates of positive cases in the area, it is a possibility that people may find they are alerted through contact tracing that they have had proximity contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and will therefore need to self-isolate. It is vital that everyone does continue to comply with hand washing, social distancing and self-isolation measures in order to stem the tide of transmission everywhere and get the virus under control.

None of this is easy, especially at this time of year, but we must all work together as a community to do what is within our power to keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible. We must also all continue to do what we can to ensure our pupils are able to enjoy their learning in the classroom in order to mitigate as much as possible the challenges COVID-19 has presented to their education over the course of 2020.

With this in mind, I want to reassure you that we continue to work hard as a school, in partnership with Public Health England, local health authorities and the Department for Education, to ensure we are upholding the highest health and safety standards in line with all government guidance and protocols.

*This school is committed to the safeguarding and protection of children*



Our bubble system, contact tracing and robust health and safety measures have allowed us to effectively respond to the challenges of this term and ensure the school continues to be safe for pupils and staff who have not had a self-isolation notification, and your child should continue to attend if they remain in good health and do not show any COVID-19 symptoms.

I also just wanted to remind everyone of the measures we can all take to help stop the spread of the virus:

- If your child, a household member or a member of your support bubble develops any of the following symptoms, we ask that you notify the school immediately and arrange a test by visiting <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by phoning 119.
  - a new continuous cough
  - a high temperature
  - a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)
  - If your child develops any of these symptoms, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.
  - Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>.
  - If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek further advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/> or by phoning 111.
  
- As a community, we can also help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 by:
  - washing your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
  - using hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
  - washing your hands as soon as you get home
  - covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
  - putting used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Finally, we want to make sure everyone is aware of the protocols we will be following in the event of receiving notification of any positive cases within the school community during the Christmas break:

- If your child tests positive for COVID-19 on the 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> December, please send an email to the school office at [admin@lessnessheath.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@lessnessheath.bexley.sch.uk) with the subject line "POSITIVE COVID CASE".
- This email account would not normally be monitored over the school holidays and staff are not meant to be working – we will however monitor for emails with that subject heading on the 18<sup>th</sup>- 23<sup>rd</sup> December in order to liaise appropriately with health authorities and notify any proximity contacts if there is a need to self-isolate.
- If your child tests positive for COVID-19 after the 23<sup>rd</sup> December, please send an email to the school office at [admin@lessnessheath.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@lessnessheath.bexley.sch.uk) with the subject line "POSITIVE COVID CASE". This information will be noted upon the return to school.



- Although Headteachers have been asked to remain on call until 24<sup>th</sup> December I will only be dealing with COVID related issues. As usual, all other enquiries will be handled upon the return to school.

I am sure we all share the same hope that things change very soon and look forward to a gradual return to normalcy over 2021 – and a much more normal Christmas season next year. I know these are challenging circumstances for our pupils, families, staff and wider school community and would like to thank you for your ongoing support during this time. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Please do keep safe and well, and I hope you all find time to enjoy the season.

Warmest wishes,

Miss Bolton  
Head Teacher