

## Shirley Infant School

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**Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day**

## Shirley Junior School



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The Department for Education announced earlier this week that schools, if they wished, could close early at the end of this term but then make this up for students' learning with the removal of one of our inset days later in the academic year.

This offer was made to support the current COVID position for school leadership teams, who will need to be on call for the first 6 days of the Christmas holiday in order to respond to and notify any staff or students of the need to self-isolate if they have been a close contact of someone in the school community who has tested positive since the school closed for the holiday period. This 6-day period would end on Christmas Eve if schools finished on Friday 18 December.

Having considered this offer and consulted with our staff, we have made the decision to **remain open on Friday 18 December**.

In order to support those members of the Senior Leadership Team who will be on call via our office@ email for notification ONLY of a positive COVID 19 test result, please follow the DfE guidance below; We recommend all schools ensure staff, parents and carers are aware of the following information and relevant arrangements regarding positive cases in the holidays:

- *For the **first 6 days after teaching ends**, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.*
- *Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.*

If your child develops symptoms within 48 hours of last being in school at the end of term and then tests positive, please email us with their name, class and your contact number as we will need to call you to establish who we need to ask to self-isolate.

Thank you in advance for your support in this matter and for continued support at this difficult time. We hope that you will not need to contact us and that you have a restful and enjoyable break under the current circumstances.

Yours sincerely

