



St. John's Church of England Middle School

Dear Parents/Guardians

With the end of this challenging School term now in sight, all our pupils and staff are looking forward to some respite over the Christmas holiday.

The good news is that break may now come a little earlier than expected. Although the Term was scheduled to end on Friday 18th December, the Department for Education released new guidance late Tuesday afternoon, which encourages school to finish on Thursday 17th December. We have made the decision to follow the guidance and have an inset day on Friday 18th December.

We are aware that many families will be coming together over the holiday period, some of whom may be elderly or vulnerable, therefore this extra day will provide families with a full week before Christmas to minimise contact if they wish. This also allows for the six clear days needed for any Track and Trace from the last day of contact to be concluded before the official five-day relaxation of Tier regulations commences on Christmas Eve.

In order to protect yourself and your families we ask that:

- **Parents of children** who are symptomatic should arrange for **IMMEDIATE** testing
- **Parents of children** who become symptomatic within 2 days of their last day at the School and then test positive must inform us ASAP.
- **Children** who need to continue their self-isolation into the new term should inform the School of their absence in the usual way.
- Under no circumstances should any child return to School if they are exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms (however minor) or **are unwell in any other way**. They should arrange for a test and inform the School.

If your child receives a positive result and has attended school within 2 days of their symptoms starting, you must email the school immediately school@st-johns-bromsgrove.worcs.sch.uk. Please let us know the date the positive result has been received, the date the symptoms started and any further information you feel would be relevant for track and trace.

To help keep our pupils, staff and families safe we will be required to track and trace up to and including Wednesday 23rd December, should a positive result be received. If track and trace is required, parents will be informed through ParentMail and text message. We therefore kindly ask that you monitor your ParentMail until this date.

We appreciate your continued support during these unprecedented times and realise this communication may present some challenges however, the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, staff and wider community remains our priority.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Elwell
Head of School