

# SAINT NICHOLAS SCHOOL

Hobbs Cross Road  
Old Harlow  
Essex CM17 0NJ  
01279 429910



Headmaster: Mr A D Petty BA MSc PGCE FRSA

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14<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents,

Further to the letter you received yesterday afternoon, the potential case in Year 5 has now been confirmed as positive and that class will remain online. In light of the positive cases in three year groups, I have taken the decision to end this term at the end of the day tomorrow, Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Arrangements for the last day**

The enrichment activities that were planned to take place on Wednesday morning will now take place after Christmas lunch tomorrow afternoon. To that end, please send the children into School in non-uniform with a Christmas jumper and a small donation for Save the Children Fund, which should be left in the buckets at the drop off points when they arrive. Pupils who have PE tomorrow morning should wear trainers.

During the afternoon, there will be an opportunity to watch the Carol Service, the Head Boy and Head Girl's Christmas Message and pupils will participate in the Form Christmas Quiz. Pupils will also have an opportunity to hand out gifts to peers and teachers within their bubble. Any gifts for other members of staff should be placed on tables set up next to the main staircase on the ground floor in Hillingdon House. Pupils who are working online will be able to participate in form group activities remotely.

### **COVID testing**

As I advised yesterday, I said that the Government has made additional testing capacity available for all children/young people and their families in the Essex area to get a test even if they do not have symptoms of COVID-19. Essex County Council have also asked that children have a second test around 4-7 days before returning to school, so we can ensure that anyone who may be infectious does not return to school and potentially start an outbreak in January. Accessing a test can be done by following this link: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> Pupils return to School on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Further to this, should a pupil or member of staff test positive for COVID-19 in the first six days of the holiday, having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in School, please contact the School via the COVID-19 notification email address [covidnotification@saintnicholasschool.net](mailto:covidnotification@saintnicholasschool.net). This is because the School will have to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in School. If a pupil develops symptoms more than 48 hours after being in school, you should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

### **The return to School after Christmas**

Before next term begins, please complete the following form which is about overseas travel during the Christmas break. It asks you to confirm that you have undertaken the required period of quarantine, if this was necessary. Even if you have not been abroad, please complete the form to inform us of that. This is an important part of our information gathering to ensure that the School site is as safe as it can be when we return in January. Please return the form no later than **Saturday**

**2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 at 11am.** Pupils cannot return until we have the completed form. The form is available using this link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ItEGVhxJhEiuYINmilf1Rj6ticSiOftPgveXvBYardJUNktLUk9KWVM0Sjk5MVEzU0JTSjhPNVdPSS4u>

At the time of writing all our other protocols and risk assessment remain the same for next term, but we will of course update you if there are any changes prior to the start of next term.

I would like to pay tribute to all the staff, whose efforts have allowed the School to operate as near normal as possible during the pandemic. I would like to thank all the pupils and parents for co-operating with the protocols and routines which we put in place to ensure that the site is as safe as possible.

As many of you are aware, we are saying goodbye to Mrs Shubrook who leaves us after six years at Saint Nicholas, to spend more time with her family and we wish her well for the future.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and I hope that, wherever you are going to be, you are able to have a happy and safe time with your family and we look forward to a better 2021.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A D Petty  
Headmaster