

10/02/21

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: February Half Term – COVID Tracking

I am writing to update you on information regarding contact tracing arrangements during February half-term. We will close for the February half-term on **Friday 12th February 2021** and reopen to vulnerable children and children of critical (key) workers on **Monday 22nd February 2021**.

The Department for Education and Public Health England expect schools to continue having procedures in place for contact tracing over the February half-term break. In response to this, we will implement the same procedure we had in place for contact tracing over the period of the Christmas break.

If your child, who attended school between **Monday 8th February 2021 and Friday 12th February 2021**, tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or develops symptoms within 48 hours of being in school (this means if a pupil, learner or staff member develops symptoms between Friday 12th February and Sunday 14th February 2021 and subsequently tests positive), you should notify the school/academy by email **as soon as possible**. The school/academy will then complete the relevant contact tracing process with Public Health England and notify any other children or staff who have been close contacts and need to self-isolate. In order to notify the school/academy, please send an email to:

- Blowers Green Primary, info@blowers.dudley.sch.uk
- Beacon Hill Academy, helpline@beaconhillacademy.org.uk
- Pegasus Academy, office@pegasusacademy.org.uk
- St James Academy, safeguarding-help@stjamesacademy.org.uk
- The Link Academy, info@thelinkacademy.org.uk

Where a pupil/learner or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school (this means any person developing symptoms after Sunday 14th February) the school/academy does not need to be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by [NHS Test and Trace](#).

When reporting a positive case, please include the following information in the body of your email:

- Name of child
- Child's class
- Date of first symptoms
- Date of test taken
- Date of positive test outcome
- Date and time last in school/academy
- Contact number in case further information is requested by Public Health England

Dudley Academies Trust

Executive offices, Dudley College of Technology
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Chair of Board of Trustees: Lowell Williams
Chief Executive: Jo Higgins



The above email addresses are only active between Saturday 13th February and Tuesday 16th February. **After 16th February, the email will be inactive** and you should follow contact tracing instruction provided by [NHS Test and Trace](#). Please be aware that the school/academy office will not be staffed during the holidays therefore, please do not call the school/academy as the lines will be closed and messages will not be received. Should you have an urgent safeguarding concern, please contact the Senior Inclusion & Safeguarding Officer by calling 07824 583068.

Please remember that as soon as your child or any member of your household develops COVID-19 symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test.

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- A high temperature.
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours.
- A loss or change to sense of smell or taste.

If you are not sure whether symptoms suggest that they have coronavirus or just an everyday cough or cold, you can consult the NHS online symptom checker [here](#).

Please do not send children back to nursery or school if any of the following apply:

- They have symptoms of COVID-19.
- They, any members of your household, or any close contacts (including extended family or friends they have seen and bubbles at half-term activities and sports clubs) have tested positive for COVID-19.
- They haven't completed the full 10-day isolation period requested.

If you or your family are affected by COVID-19 and need support locally with things like shopping, getting medication or financial advice, visit the Local Authority website [here](#):

A reminder that vulnerable children and children of critical (key) workers attending Blowers Green Primary school and our secondary academies will return on Monday 22nd February. Pupils/ learners should not return if they are displaying symptoms or are in isolation for any other COVID-19 reason.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Jo Higgins
Chief Executive



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