



The William Amory Primary School & Nursery

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NEWSLETTER – last before Christmas

11th December 2020

Term Starts 5th January 2020 for children.

WE MADE IT (This far at least – fingers crossed)

Hopefully not famous last words!

Well done to all the children; the staff; the governors and the parents for working through this term. We all deserve praise for the way we have accommodated change and confusion that have been with us all this term.

Best Wishes

We offer our best wishes to all of those who have tested positive and who might be ill over Christmas. We wish you the best outcome and hope that Blythe Bridge remains an oasis of calm.

Our Thanks

I'm sure I speak for all when I thank all those front line and key workers around the area. Be it the postman, shopworker, or bus driver – we thank you all. But we reserve a special thanks to those working on the front line – Our NHS.

Merry Christmas...

We hope that you all have a great holiday and that you find a bit of time to relax and catch your breath.

...And a Happy New Year

And may we all hope we live in less interesting times in 2021!

Reminder Snow Plan

Below are reminders of how we aim to operate on snow days:

- Our local schools share information from 06:00 though we make our own decisions mostly based on staffing.
- Staff inform me of the possibility of getting to school and nursery. Please remember that some staff commute for up to an hour and many live in the Peaks so they may be better or worse off than Blythe Bridge for snow.
- I make a decision with this information, along with Met Office and BBC weather forecasts. **I publish via text to all parents/carers by 06:45 if the school and nursery are to close.** I then inform the authorities who publish it. Please do not rely on websites or radio – your text is accurate as everything else can't be guaranteed.
- Once the decision to close is made, that is final.
- We make every attempt to clear paths to the school but conditions dictate what we do on the day.
- I may well close the school the night before if it is clear that the weather overnight is worsening.

To help us out please:

- Make sure we have your correct and current mobile number.
- Don't call school to see if we are open. If you have not heard by 06:45, we shall be open.
- Don't call school to see if you should send your child to school – we cannot make that decision on your behalf. If you do not think it is safe to come in, then please call and leave a message.

And a final reminder - If you have not received a text by 06:45, the school is open.



More Below – important info about Test and Trace....

Other Information Sources and Signposts

Option of INSET on 18th December 2020

This week the DfE has suggested that schools can close a day earlier this term, time which would need to be made up at some other point. Some local schools will be taking up this option but we will not. To confirm, unless it's a snow day etc:

The William Amory WILL REMAIN OPEN on the 18th December 2020

Contact Test and Trace

The same update also informed us that schools are to be used as part of the test and trace. The actual advice is below but I read it as:

- **If your child gets symptoms BEFORE 15.31 on Sunday 20th December AND THEN tests positive at some point before Christmas Day, then the school will get involved.** Please note the 'before' and 'and then' in this.
- **In all other cases, the school will not get involved.**
- I don't think you need to contact me. I think what it is saying is that PHE will contact me and I will send them a class list or they will ask me to contact you to say something like, "a classmate/staff member of your child has tested positive and s/he are to self-isolate for 14 days."

We recommend all schools ensure staff, parents and carers are aware of the following information and relevant arrangements regarding positive cases in the holidays:

- *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.*
- *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.*
- *School staff are not asked to remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than 6 days after the final day of teaching. Where a school's last teaching day is on Thursday 17 December, there should be no pupil contact tracing asks beyond Wednesday 23 December.*

For the first 6 days after the end of term, schools are not asked to be on-call at all times. Staff responsible for contact tracing may designate a limited period in the day to receive notification of positive cases and advise close contacts to self-isolate (this can be done by text or email). The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline and PHE advice service are available to support with any queries you have about positive cases in your school.

Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 6 days following the end of term, schools do not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term.

HOWEVER – because I'm a bit confused about if you should or shouldn't contact us, and because we would like to know if any of our pupils get Covid during the holidays, please could you let me know by either emailing me or texting on the school mobile. Obviously I'll not inform classmates after the 48 hours and please trust us that we will protect identities etc. Please also accept that I'll not be replying on the school mobile as it's modelled on the earliest 90's phones and the holidays will be over before I've composed a reply.

Covid Contacts – email (preferred) headteacher@williamamory.staffs.sch.uk
Text (school mobile) 07927 077688

Note – Only AFTER end of term. Before then, please call the office.