



Leader's Office

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Dear Parents & Carers,

Re: End of Term Test and Trace arrangements

I hope you are keeping safe and well. Christmas this year may be a little different and although I'm sure many of you will be looking forward to a break over the Christmas period, it is important that we all remember to enjoy this time safely.

Infection rates in London are high and rising rapidly. The government has announced that from Wednesday 16th December, Londoners will have to follow [tier 3 restrictions](#). As you may already be aware, the government has also announced new rules for a [few days around Christmas](#) to allow families to meet. As cases continue to rise, discussions are ongoing nationally on possible changes to the Christmas-period rules, so you should follow any new rules or guidance that is released.

Following these new changes, we want to highlight some specific issues for families and schools to consider at the end of term.

Test and Trace arrangements around the end of term Covid-19 symptoms in last few days of term and up to 48 hours after term ends

- Parents, pupils and school staff must play their part in being **alert for Covid-19 symptoms during the last days of term and in the first 48 hours after term ends**.
- If anyone develops symptoms, they should [self-isolate at home](#), together with their household members, and should access a **Covid-19 test without delay-ideally in the first day or two of showing symptoms**.
- The school will be available to contact if your child develops Covid-19 symptoms within 48 hours of the school closing.
- Please inform the school that your child has developed symptoms within 48 hours of term ending and that you are getting/have had a test. Your child's school will inform you on how you should make contact.
- You can apply for a test on the [NHS website](#) or by calling 119, and there are

several testing sites in Ealing and London.

If your child tests positive for Covid-19

- **If the Covid-19 test is positive you should contact the school without delay** – so that the school can undertake contact tracing and inform the relevant ‘close contacts’ to self-isolate. Please contact Castlebar School on 020 8998 3135 and leave a message or send an email to admin@castlebar.ealing.sch.uk These will be checked regularly for the first few days of the holiday.
- This is particularly important over the Christmas period if people are planning to make ‘[Christmas bubbles](#)’.
- If the Covid-19 test is positive, you should also engage with the [NHS Test and Trace](#) process for any contacts outside school.

Covid-19 symptoms more than 48 hours after term ends

- **If Covid-19 symptoms start more than 48 hours after the end of term until the first day of the new term**, continue to [isolate and test](#), and if the result is positive, you should engage with the [NHS Test and Trace](#) process only. You do not need to contact school.

Return to school in January

- The easing of restrictions over the Christmas period may lead to a rise in infection rates.
- The government will be rolling out more testing in schools next term.
- We want the return to school to be as safe as possible so please be alert to Covid-19 symptoms (high temperature, a new continuous cough, loss/change in taste/smell). If your child, or household member, develops any of these symptoms, however mild, the [household should isolate](#) and not come to school and the person with symptoms should [get tested](#).
- Please also continue to follow the [tier 3 rules](#) for London at this time.

You can keep up with all the latest government guidance by visiting www.gov.uk/coronavirus.

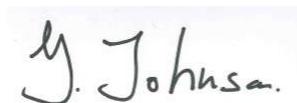
We know that tighter restrictions mean that some families will find it even more difficult over the winter months, so today we announced a [COVID-19 winter grant](#) for families on low incomes which can be applied for on the council’s website. Also, eligible families will automatically be receiving supermarket vouchers to help with keeping children and parents fed this holiday period.

Thank you for following the guidance which keeps us all safe and we hope you enjoy the Christmas break.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Julian Bell
Leader of the Council



Councillor Yvonne Johnson
Cabinet Member for Schools and Children’s Services