



Dear parents and guardians

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

I trust this email finds you all well and prepared for the coming Christmas break.

Please be aware that today is the last day of term and school is required to keep in contact with families of children who display any possible COVID symptoms, even if you believe it is a cold, until a test result is received.

If your child displays a cough, high temperature or change in taste or smell at any time on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December (tomorrow) or Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December, please email me at [jeremy.cooper@appledoreprimary.co.uk](mailto:jeremy.cooper@appledoreprimary.co.uk) with a telephone number I can contact you on. The purpose of my call would be to discuss your next steps and for school to be prepared for the possibility of a positive COVID test result.

Upon our return to school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, please follow the usual reporting of illness procedure by notifying us of an absence by telephone or emailing [admin@appledoreprimary.co.uk](mailto:admin@appledoreprimary.co.uk)

As I reflect on this year and write this letter, thinking about the changes we have all had to make, somewhat strangely school does not feel different anymore. A strange thing to read, perhaps, and why might that be so? Largely, I believe it is because the children's adaptability, resilience, positivity and determination to enjoy life, not least the run up to Christmas, has not changed one bit and that is mightily infectious. And probably unbeknown to the children, their response to the required changes has hugely supported the staff with the immense challenge of essentially redesigning and implementing the workings of the school in these uncertain and often concerning times.

So what am really saying? I think it's that as a result of a hugely impressive team effort from all the children, parents, staff and governors we head into the break for Christmas in good shape, ready for whatever 2021 brings, and for that I am truly grateful to all you.

Despite spending much time and energy on organisational changes to school routines, hopefully these are temporary and an end will be in sight next year, we have not slowed this year in our constant endeavours to improve and enrich the learning and experiences for your children. We continue to develop our curriculum and notable developments this term have included the introduction of more outdoor learning and the use of Google Classroom, including new resources such as a poly tunnel and over 100 Chromebooks to support these developments. Such development will continue next term and will share more as the term unfolds.

To find out what has been going on in and around the classes this week, please continue to read our weekly newsletter published on our website at the end of each week.

We look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January and wish you a merry and healthy Christmas.

Best wishes from

Jeremy Cooper and all the children and staff