



# The William Henry Smith School

8 December 2020

## **Free School Meals (FSM) Christmas Bubble Guidance (DfE) Reporting Positive Test Results (Christmas break)**

I do hope families are well. It has been a very busy ½ term, with lots of activity and experiences, despite the challenges we all face globally. Families should expect to see the latest copy of the school's newsletter very shortly, which clearly reflects the hard work put in by our students and their supporting staff. Our children continue to cope admirably with changes to daily life in school, and should be very proud of all they have achieved.

As part of lockdown 1 we were able to issue government funded vouchers to support families who qualified for Free School Meals (FSM). This scheme has now come to an end. The Department for Education (DfE) have now distributed funds directly to Local Authorities (LAs) under the COVID Winter Grant, to aid supporting those who need additional support through the winter period. Every LA are administering the distribution of these funds differently and have not informed schools. If you feel you need additional support between Christmas and next Easter, can I please encourage you to go to your local authority's website and search for Covid Winter Grant (CWG) or FSM and hopefully there will be a link to help families make an application for support. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you feel we can help at this time.

The DfE have produced some guidance around forming bubbles over the Christmas period and I am sharing some of it below. The full document can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-a-christmas-bubble-with-friends-and-family/making-a-christmas-bubble-with-friends-and-family>

### **Before forming and meeting your Christmas bubble**

- You should reduce unnecessary contact with people you do not live with as much as possible in the two weeks before you form your Christmas bubble.
- Children should continue to go to school.
- You should work from home if you can, but you should avoid unnecessary social interaction. Any increase in contact with other people increases the risk you will catch or spread coronavirus.

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### After meeting your Christmas bubble

- In the two weeks that follow your last meeting with your Christmas bubble, you should reduce your contact with people you do not live with as much as possible.
- Children can continue to go to school.
- You can go to work if you cannot work from home, but you should avoid unnecessary social interaction. Any increase in contact with other people increases the risk you will catch or spread coronavirus.

Over the Christmas period, we shall continue to ask families to report to school if anyone in households or Christmas bubbles develop symptoms, or has a positive test result. Please email Caroline Booth at: [covidreporting@whsschool.org.uk](mailto:covidreporting@whsschool.org.uk) or if critical call 07850227965.

And finally, I wish to thank you for your support, and your resilience.

Here's to a Happy Christmas.

Best wishes,

*Sue*

Sue Ackroyd | Principal

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