



OIA news

Issue 8
18.11.2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We made it! What a first term it has been for me as the new Headteacher. I would be lying if I said it had been easy, or what I expected. There have been many challenges but what has not let me down, is what drew me to the school in the first place; the children are amazing and an absolute credit to you as parents and to us as a school. They make every single day worthwhile.

On behalf of myself and all the team here at OIA, I would like to wish you a safe, restful, and happy festive holiday. Enjoy time with your families. If you have not seen our [Christmas Extravaganza](#) already, please do take a look. We know how disappointing it is not to come and see your children perform, and with the restrictions on bubble mixing and singing in large groups, we made the decision to do things differently. I am incredibly proud of all the children and staff for their efforts in making Christmas Cracker week a huge success. The children have enjoyed every minute!

You will no doubt be aware, the Department for Education and Public Health England have asked schools to remain contactable for a 6-day window after the end of term. This is to support contact tracing where necessary, allowing enough time for a positive case to be identified, confirmed by a test and for contacts in school to be traced and notified.

In reality, the need to extend into 6 days is likely to be minimal since tests are currently readily available and comeback quickly. However, just in case there are any delays in getting a test or receiving a result, the Department for Education has determined that stating 6 days removes this risk. Beyond the 6-day window, education staff do not need to play a role in contact tracing.

We are required to ensure that all parents and carers are fully aware of the following arrangements regarding confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the holidays:

1. If a child develops symptoms within 48 hours of leaving school for Christmas, and a positive test subsequently comes back, parents and carers should report this to us via email (direct to sarah.armitage@olneyinfant.org). This is because there will have been close contact with pupils and staff in term time, and we are required to follow our normal processes to assist in identifying close contacts and advising members of the affected bubble(s) to self-isolate. The highest likelihood is that this would happen in the first few days of school closing.
2. If the symptoms develop after 48 hours of leaving school for Christmas, and a positive test subsequently comes back, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow the contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

NEW WEBSITE

Some of you may have spotted we have a new website. This is still a work in progress in some places. The website aims to be an information point and a little window into life at OIA.

www.olneyinfantacademy.co.uk

Wishing you all a wonderful festive break, and we look forward to a happier and healthier 2021. We will see you on the 4th January.

With my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Armitage', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sarah Armitage