



# Polesden Lacey Infant School



9<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all well and getting into the festive spirit. At school it has been wonderful listening to the children practicing their Christmas songs (on the grassy bank) and hearing them rehearsing their lines. All we need now is the sun to shine on us as we film them!

Some of you may have read in the press, that the Government and the Department for Education, announced yesterday afternoon that schools could use Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December as one of their INSET days (a day when the staff are in school undertaking training but the children do not come in). We have decided that we **will not** be changing our plans and we **will be open** for the children on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. We feel that this is very short notice for parents to arrange childcare and for schools to organise meaningful and effective training for staff. If we used this as an INSET day we would then have to lose one of our pre-planned days later in the year. As planned, Rabbit class will finish at 1pm, Squirrel class at 1.05pm and Badger class at 1.10pm.

The Government has asked that headteachers continue to support them with the track and trace aspect of Covid – 19 for the first 6 days of the holiday. I will do this by checking the [office@polesdenlaceyinfant.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:office@polesdenlaceyinfant.surrey.sch.uk) email on a daily basis until Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December. Therefore, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, please email the school on the office@ account and we will assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. Where a pupil or staff member test positive for coronavirus (Covid – 19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, then you must follow contact tracking instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.



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As it is now only 16 sleeps until Christmas and 14 sleeps until you could become a bubble with two other households, I urge you to continue to be vigilant and follow the current guidance. We have done amazingly well, as a community; we have not had to send any pupils or bubbles home to self-isolate because they have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid – 19. If you are in any doubt, please keep your child at home and get them tested. It would be such a pity, for families, if we had to send groups home to self-isolate during the final week of term, as this could impact significantly on any planned celebrations.

To finish on a positive and cheery note, don't forget that next Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December is Christmas lunch day at school and the children can come to school in mufti clothes which include a Christmas Jumper. We will be having our Christmas making morning on this day and the staff have lots of lovely activities for the children to take part in and then the children will be able to take home their creations. We will miss having our usual parent volunteers in to help us but we will take lots of photos and put them on the website so that you can see what fun the children have.

Take care and stay safe,

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Mole  
Headteacher