



**Education Resources**  
Executive Director **Tony McDaid**

Parent/Carer

**Our ref:**

TMcD

**Your ref:**

**Phone:**

0303 123 1023

**Date:**

18 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

With Christmas fast approaching I am sure that we are all looking forward to the opportunity for a relaxing break. I am writing to let you know that as we move into the Christmas holiday period, we want to do what we can to help keep everyone safe.

I believe our schools and nurseries have done a remarkable job since the beginning of the new school term in August and the resilience of your children and young people in adapting to the many challenges posed has been exceptional.

As we approach the last days of term, schools/nurseries are being asked to make sure every effort is made to keep pupils in small groupings and to stick with their class seating plans.

Parents are reminded that anyone with symptoms must not attend school. They should book a test and the whole household should self-isolate until the test results are known. This will help reduce the number of children and staff who may be required to self-isolate in the event of a positive case arising over the Christmas and New Year period.

If there are any positive school cases of Covid19 over the holiday period, I can confirm that NHS Lanarkshire (NHSL) Public Health specialists, with the support of South Lanarkshire Council Education Headquarters (HQ) staff, will continue to investigate and identify close contacts. This activity will be ongoing from when schools close on Tuesday 22 December 2020.

Therefore, I wish to communicate the following key messages:

- *if a positive case is identified after schools close on Tuesday, 22 December 2020, NHSL and Test and Protect (T&P), supported by South Lanarkshire Education HQ staff, will investigate and identify close contacts;*
- *this may result in a phone call or text message to parents by T&P asking close contacts to self-isolate over the Christmas and New Year period.*
- *during the Christmas and New Year holiday, when schools are closed, we will be asked by NHSL Public Health to collate this information so that we can share it with Head Teachers when they return on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020.*

I would ask that we all continue to be vigilant in our actions in the coming days so that we can look forward to celebrating Christmas together with our families.

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On return to school in January, it remains important that our pupils continue to follow the safety procedures in place. This includes hand sanitising when entering and exiting school buildings and before moving from class to class and, where appropriate, wearing face coverings. For secondary school pupils this means wearing face coverings within senior phase classes, in busy areas within school and when visiting shops out with school grounds. Face coverings are required for all pupils on designated school transport.

Thank you for the way in which you have supported our schools and nurseries in what has been a challenging term for everyone. I would also like to pay tribute to the work of Parent Councils, who continue to ensure your concerns and issues are highlighted and steps taken to resolve them.

I hope you have a well-deserved, peaceful and relaxing Christmas and New Year break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony McDaid". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and 'M'.

**Tony McDaid**  
**Executive Director (Education Resources)**