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Headteacher: Mrs. H. Lee

6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new half term. The children all look super smart in their Winter Uniform. Well done to Parents for getting all the correct uniform at this time. We are very sorry that you are experiencing delays with our uniform orders. We know that some are waiting a while and this is not our 'normal service'. As soon as the orders come into school a text goes out to say your items have arrived so please bear with us in these difficult times.

#### HALF TERM UPDATES

There are some updates that will be happening over this half term in what are very different circumstances for our school 'Christmas Term'. We are hoping to bring a bit of cheer to the children in some way or another.

#### Birthdays

We know that our children are unable to have birthday parties this year which is very disappointing for all children. Following information provided by a parent we will be helping your child to celebrate their birthday in school with some fun and games to recognise them as the 'birthday child' in their class. Obviously, we cannot do this every day there is a birthday so we are looking to have a joint, monthly celebration in each class. For all those who have birthdays in September and October they will be celebrating next Friday (13<sup>th</sup> November); for those with birthdays in November we will be celebrating on 27<sup>th</sup> November and December birthdays on 11<sup>th</sup> December. Unfortunately we cannot accept any treats for the children. As many of you know we stopped giving out treats a while ago so this is no different now. Please can I ask that Parents do not distribute party bags, cakes etc on the playground? If we were to have a case of Coronavirus in school, Public Health England would look at items being shared as a source of transmission and I would not like you to feel guilty about passing on the virus to other people.

#### Children in Need Day

We will be supporting Children in Need this year by having a spotty day! With their uniform children can wear something spotty! Socks, hairband, bobble, spotty scarf, stuck on spots, spots on their face etc - anything to brighten our day with spots. So, on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November let's see those spots for a £1 donation for such a worthy cause. There will be a box on the playground for donations or children can take it into class.

#### Magic of Theatre Production

We are very lucky to have secured the services of M & M Productions once again who are able to deliver a Covid safe Cinematic Theatre production in schools this year. The production of 'The Wizard of Oz' has been passed by health and safety inspectors and, as the production crew consists of 1 person and a screen, there will be no contact at all between any members of the crew and our children and staff. If you would like a sneak peek of the production please go the Twitter feed of 'M & M Theatrical Prod' or the website



<https://www.magicoftheatre.com> which includes recent testimonials from other schools. Only two classes will be in the hall at any one time and all children will be away from other classes with at least 6 metres between them. We usually use this superb company for our pantomime in school so are delighted that they have produced a Covid secure production. All Covid secure procedures are being followed and the Health and Safety Policy of the company is on the website for you to see. If you would prefer that your child was not in the hall on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November to watch this production please let a member of staff know next week either on the playground or via email to school.

### Cards and decorations in School

As many people are aware we normally ask for all the children to bring in a decoration at Christmas to decorate our community tree in school. Unfortunately, we will not be able to have decorations from home this year so all the children will be making a decoration in school which will be put on the tree. Joe and Maisie from Year 6 will switch on the lights during our remote Assembly so all the children can see our tree in the Hall being lit for Christmas.

We will also not be able to allow Christmas cards to come into school this year. We will be making sure the children get lots of writing practice over the coming weeks without having to write Christmas cards 😊. A good idea may be for your child to choose a charity and a donation made instead of buying the cards.

### Friends Film Afternoon

As we will not be having our usual Christmas Fayre this year our Friends Association have arranged for a film afternoon in school. On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December (when it would have been our Christmas Fayre) each class will show a film with children able to come to school in their pyjamas if they wish for a donation of £2.00 towards Friends funds. Ready prepared bags of sweets will be able to be ordered through Friends as well as some other goodies. Further details will be sent out from our fantastic Friends Association.

### Nativity

We know how disappointed our children and parents will be that we can't have the traditional Nativity in our School Hall this year. However, we are hoping to produce a socially distanced Nativity this year which will be available to view in instalments on our website. Watch this space.

### Christmas Dinner

This will take place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December. It will not be a traditional roast but a party box this year. We are really sad that all the children will not be together for our lovely Christmas dinner but there will still be Christmas songs playing in the classes and hall too. Details of how to book this dinner will be made available to you shortly.

### Christmas Singing

The current restrictions do not allow us to undertake any 'hearty' singing like we normally have from our choirs and all the children in church. We are hoping that we will be able to learn some Christmas songs and the idea is that we could sing some of them outside in the last week of term. We hope we can do some near normal activities in this way to help our children celebrate Christmas.

### Santa Dash

We will be organising a Santa Dash during the last week of term to encourage the children with their running. Any Santa hats can be worn and on the day, weather dependent, we will ask all children to come into school in their PE kits. More details when we have some idea of what the weather will be like in mid-December.

### Final Fun Day

As we will not be having party days in school this year we have decided that the last day (Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December) will be our final fun day. Children can come into school in their 'party' clothes or normal clothes if they wish. We will have games, quizzes and fun in the classrooms. Further details will be sent by class teachers nearer the time. We hope to make it as much as a party atmosphere as we possibly can. Please do not send in any toys as they will not be allowed to play with them.

### Coronavirus updates

With the new lockdown now in place I would urge everyone to try to keep to the rules as much as possible to help protect everyone at Oakdene. Can I ask you to remind whoever drops off or collects your child that only one person should be on the playground with your child or children? Thank you to those families who wait outside school when arriving at school together. If we have 2 or more adults for each child we would not have enough space to be socially distanced on the playground,

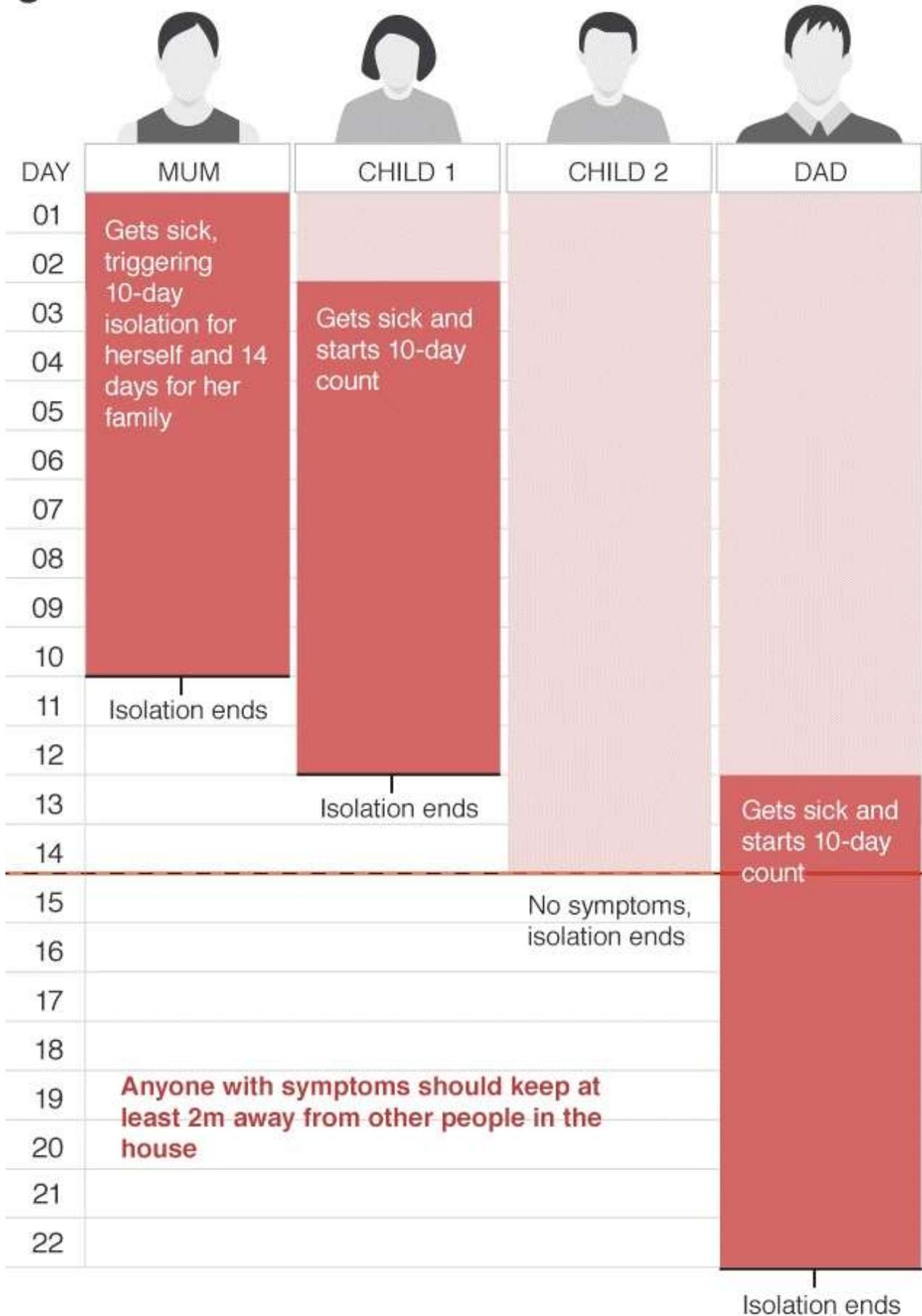
Once again, I would ask that, if you or a family member have a suspected or confirmed case, you do not put it on social media which may cause worry and distress to other families. All people connected with any confirmed cases will be contacted by test and trace and, in the case of a school case, we will be informed as to who needs to self-isolate. Rest assured, we monitor the return dates of any affected families closely and consult with DfE/PHE/NHS helplines and websites regularly to ensure Oakdene is always applying the latest, official guidelines. I have attached an illustration of self-isolation timescales that you may find useful. We can all help each other to keep safe in these very strange times and hope that we can get to Christmas in a positive way. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



H. Lee  
Headteacher

# What happens if someone in your family gets sick?



People may be able to pass on coronavirus without showing any symptoms

Source: Public Health England advice