



➤ **WE RESPECT, WE ACHIEVE, WE LEARN** ◀

10.2.21

Dear Parents and carers,

As I write this, the school has been even quieter than usual with the weather keeping even more children at home. I do hope you have had some fun with your families, there was definitely enough snow to make a snowman this year! Thank you for sending us lovely pictures of you and the children in the snow. These really cheer us all up here in school.

I am writing to you to confirm that next week is officially half term. School will be closed to all pupils in line with DFE advice from Monday 15th of February until Tuesday 23rd of February inclusively. Monday the 22nd is a training day for all staff.

We are expecting an update from the Prime minister on the 22nd of February which we then hope will offer clarity around the next half term and the reopening of the school to all pupils. We hope that we will start to re-open from the date of March 8th. Until this is confirmed we will still only be open to those who have currently been accessing school and nursery. We know no more than this at this time.

I know how hard this lockdown has felt for so many children, being winter has made it so much harder for families. We have had a much greater response to 'home learning' and we have felt you have reached out to us when needing support and advice. In fact, 95% of families have actively engaged in our home learning. Well done this is great and has helped to keep the children emotionally connected to us as well as learning. I have personally monitored the work sent and have really loved seeing the children's responses. However, we know this has not been easy and as before we are ready to assess and support the children in a 'recovery' curriculum once we can re-open safely.

Half term guidance for those who have been in school.

Please follow the guidance below if your child begins to show symptoms of COVID19 during the Half term break and they have been in school this week or are due to be in the week that starts the 23rd of February.

If your child develops symptoms of COVID19 within 48 hours of being in school.

You must seek a test for your child and the household must isolate at home until the test result is returned. You should let your school know that this has occurred.

The quickest way to obtain a test is to book a test at your local testing centre via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. Please do not use postal tests unless absolutely necessary as these take longer.

If the test result is positive for COVID19, you must inform your school, who will identify if there are any other individuals within the school community who are impacted by this.

Monkwick Infant and Nursery School
School Road|Colchester| CO2 8NN
➤ Headteacher: Mrs C N Holmes

T 01206 573849
E admin@monkwickinfant.school

➤ [MONKWICK-INF.ESSEX.SCH.UK](https://monkwick-inf.essex.sch.uk)
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If the test result is negative, you should inform the school and you do not need to take any further action.

You should contact the school on **the email talktoschool@monkwickinfant.school** or using **this mobile number 07971753578 - which is only to be used for this purpose during the school closure period. We will be monitoring these throughout the break.**

You must provide the following:

Name, date of symptoms starting, and child's class and your contact details.

If you are contacted by the school because your child is identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID19, they must self-isolate for 10 days. We must be informed if your child or family member has been ill during the half term week and are due in school the week following half term.

I continue to encourage you to adhere to social distancing and all COVID19 social mixing guidance so that infection levels keep falling and we can get schools open again as soon as we are safely allowed. For your information school staff are now undertaking twice weekly home tests which again helps to identify those who may be asymptomatic but have the virus.

We really miss the school community being together but there does seem to be cause for an optimistic Spring. Many vulnerable members of our families have now had the vaccinations and this gives everyone hope for better times ahead.

As always we are here in school to listen, support and help you in any way we can.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C.N.Holmes

Head teacher

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