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9th December 2020

TERM TIME ARRANGEMENTS

Dear Parents/Carers,

Yesterday, the Department for Education (DFE) announced that **all teaching in schools should end on Thursday 17th December**. This is now a day earlier than we had planned. Therefore, there will be **no provision for pupils on Friday 18th December** as it will be a disaggregated training day for staff.

The DFE has recognised this communication has arrived late in the term. I believe it to be the correct decision, though frustrating that we have been given such little notice to plan. I also understand that parents and carers may quickly need to alter their own childcare arrangements for younger children. This earlier finish reduces the risk of pupils and staff being identified as close contacts on Friday 18th December and having to self-isolate over Christmas. It also ensures that school staff are not contact tracing right up to Christmas Eve.

It remains vital that all children continue to attend school up to the last day of teaching on Thursday 17th December; school will finish at the normal time of 3.10pm/3.15pm.

Reporting positive cases of coronavirus

For the first 6 days following the end of term (Friday 18th December - Wednesday 23rd December), **parents should inform us if their child tests positive for coronavirus by phoning Emma Tuffey on 07496 115528.**

Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 6 days following the end of term (i.e. after Wednesday 23rd December), schools do not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term.

Finally, in light of these changes and advice taken from the local authority, we have decided to make a change to what was communicated to you previously. Instead of the children returning on Monday January 4th, they will now **come back to school on Tuesday 5th January**, which is in line with all other LA maintained city schools. Monday 4th January will be an inset day for staff.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Tuffey

Acting Head Teacher