

9th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Government wrote to schools yesterday about early closure for Christmas. Their letter contains the following:

“We know that school and further education leaders, teachers and staff, as well as nurseries and childminders, have worked tirelessly over the last term. This has included their important role in contact tracing, to help in the national effort to limit the spread of the virus. We are aware that this has led to additional work over weekends and holidays and we are incredibly grateful for this. We recognise the challenges of this responsibility at the end of term.

Public Health England has agreed a 6-day window after the final day of teaching in which schools and further education providers are asked to remain contactable so they can assist with contact tracing where necessary. This will allow enough time for positive coronavirus (COVID-19) cases to be identified and confirmed by a test and for relevant contacts in the education setting to be traced. We are clear that beyond 6 days after the final day of teaching, school and further education staff are not asked to play a role in any contact tracing. It is also likely that the need to support the tracing process will reduce dramatically over the course of the 6 days as the majority of cases should be identified earlier in the week.”

The letter goes on to highly recommend that schools take **Friday 18th December as an INSET day** for the purposes outlined above. It advises that teaching time must be made up later on in the year.

Therefore, in response to this advice, I am informing you that we will be closed to all pupils on Friday 18th December 2020. Our last day of school will be Thursday 17th December at 3:15pm.

In the New Year, I will write to you again to let you know how and when I will be making the teaching time up, but we anticipate that this will take place in the summer term.

Thank you for your continued support during these incredibly difficult times.

Kind regards,

Verity Carter
Headteacher