

Our Ref: PJS/LRS

9 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I just wanted to update you about the end of term as you may have seen the government gave schools permission to close to students a day early as an INSET day.

We will be sticking to our planned arrangements and school will run until the end of Friday 18th December as normal. The reasoning from the DfE is around senior staff not having to potentially make track and trace calls on Christmas Eve.

Having missed enough time from school already we will not be doing this, we think it's important we keep students in school and it seems particularly unfair to parents who are working to throw in another day's childcare demands at such late notice. Our INSET days are valuable training opportunities which are planned often months in advance and we don't want to squander one by having to cobble something together at short notice. The last-minute proposal has led to some predictable teacher bashing from the press already and the last thing staff need at the moment is further criticism after such a challenging term.

We obviously hope that we don't have any more cases of Covid before Christmas, but we have Senior Leadership Team members on a rota to organise the text messaging and tracing if necessary over the Christmas break.

I understand that some parents will be worrying about having to make extra arrangements etc. so I thought it was worth clarifying it and reassuring you.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Jenkins
Headteacher