

Thursday 10th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

You may be aware the Government have recently announced that Headteachers/Principals are now able to make the last day of term (Friday 18th December) an INSET day or could choose to close. This is to ensure that leaders could have a “proper break” from Track and Trace over Christmas and to allow a six-day window before Christmas Eve.

Due to the short notice we have decided not to change our planned INSET day arrangements. This is because:

- Many families will find it difficult to organise childcare at such short notice.
- Many learners will struggle to manage the change especially as they have already been told and are looking forward to the different activities planned during the last week.

As a school we are committed to ensuring that our INSET days are of a high quality and are already jointly planning our INSET day (4th January) with our Clinical Psychologist. Unfortunately, due to the nature of the INSET day it is not possible to move this to the 18th December. I have also considered staff accessing training online from home but this is not something that can be pursued as staff have already completed the majority of their online training in the Summer Term.

I feel that by keeping the INSET day on the 4th January it will also provide us with an opportunity to update and/or advise you of any changes that may arise following the Christmas arrangements outlined by the Government (23rd December until 27th December).

In their communication the Government highlighted that they would prefer schools not to close and that any school choosing to shut a day early would need to make up this day by the end of the academic school year. As we have already extended the Summer term by two days, in order to accommodate our slightly longer October half term, I do not feel this is an option. This is because:

- Some staff and families have already booked their summer holidays based on the fact our last day of term is Friday 23rd July.
- Many learners would find it difficult to attend school for one day after a weekend.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind regards,



Nicola Wells

Principal



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