



9th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Additional INSET Day, Friday 18th December

Yesterday afternoon, the Department for Education contacted schools to propose allocating Friday 18th December as an additional INSET Day, in order to create a little more separation between the end of the school term and Christmas family events.

In line with all other schools in the Lighthouse Schools Partnership, we believe that it is right to adopt this additional INSET day because:

- this gives an additional day of separation between the school term and Christmas family events, giving families a little extra reassurance where many children will be hoping to spend time with more vulnerable family members; this is also the case for members of staff
- if there were to be a positive case amongst the student body confirmed in the first few days of the holidays, it gives a little more time to establish close contacts, make the necessary communications and allow families to make any necessary changes to their arrangements over the Christmas period
- It will mean that any school involvement in 'Test and Trace' activity will finish on 23rd December (as there is a 'six-day contact tracing window'), so families will then be reassured that there is no further risk of children being identified as close contacts, over the Christmas period; this is also the case for members of staff.

I fully appreciate that the late notice of this may cause some frustration to parents, as it does for us – until this point the DfE have been clear that schools should not bring forward the end of term. However, we do believe that this is in the best interests of the school community as a whole, at the end of an incredibly challenging year for all, and ahead of more challenging months ahead.

As such, the school term will end on Thursday 17th December. This will be a full school day, with some time for a virtual Whole School Assembly and House Christmas messages during the afternoon lesson to mark the end of a term, where we have been incredibly proud of the way that our students have taken great responsibility in protecting others and focusing on learning despite the very significant challenges that we have all faced.

I will write again with my regular update on Friday.

Regards

Tom Inman
Headteacher

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