

9<sup>th</sup> December 2020  
09:00

Dear Families

**Re: Update following Department for Education (DfE) announcement yesterday**

You may have read in the news that the Department of Education released some guidance/advice yesterday to say that schools will now be able to shut to students on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and use the 18<sup>th</sup> as an INSET/PD Day, despite reinforcing the message that schools were not to shut to students early before Christmas. For schools that decide to close a day early, the day would need to be taken from an INSET day later on in the academic year.

We have made the decision that **we will be open on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December** as we understand that many families will have already made childcare arrangements and also as a staff group, we only have one INSET/PD Day left with several external speakers and mandatory training on the first day back after Christmas which was planned well in advance.

The final day arrangements on the 18<sup>th</sup> December will be the same as previous years, although the extended assembly in the morning will be via Teams. The usual curriculum will be taught in lessons and continue to take place as usual all the way to period 4. Students will be dismissed at 12:35pm.

**We will allow students to wear a Christmas jumper under their uniform or embellish their uniform with Christmas decorations on the final day (Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December).** Although the official Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children is the 11<sup>th</sup> December, we have decided that having this day on the final day of term will have the least disruption to learning. We would be grateful if you could ask your child to bring in £1 on the final day for charity should they wish to decorate their uniform with festive cheer!

Best wishes,



Krissi Carter  
Principal



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