



Headteacher
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the opportunity to succeed

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10th December 2020

Dear Parents,

I am sending you a copy of the press release from Bracknell Forest Council and a copy of the letter for parents from Rachel Morgan, Assistant Director of Education & Learning.

The announcement by the Department for Education of the option to use the last Friday of term as an Inset Day was both unexpected and perplexing. My first thought was that I did not want to close on this day. We have carefully calendared our Inset Days and indeed our whole school teaching and learning programme. For those children who are here on the last day of term, it is a lovely way to end the term.

The day has not been given, as cited by the Daily Mail, so that 'stressed' school staff get a 'proper break'. It has been given because school staff have been told to be available for 6 days after the end of term to continue to make calls to parents as part of track and trace systems. So when we get information from a parent that a child has tested positive, we have to contact you to let you know if your child has been a close contact. If schools close on the 17th, the last day we will be expected to make these calls is 23rd December. If we finish on 18th December then the last day we would make these calls is 24th December. Public Health England will take over the tracking and tracing from this date onwards and until schools return in January. As yet, there is no Public Health England contact details from this date so until one is shared, please do continue to inform us by sending copies of your test results [HERE](#). We will only contact you should your child be identified as a close contact. You are welcome to share these throughout the holiday.

Reluctantly, I have therefore decided to close the school to students on Friday 18th December.

It will likely be impossible for us to open to all students as many of my staff will have to care for their own children who are not in school that day.

It does also make sense to limit the contact between students themselves and also students and staff. School will therefore, following a virtual whole school assembly, finish at **2.40pm on Thursday 17th December**. There will be no tutor session that day and we will stagger the exit in 5 minute intervals.

It is a pity, but I am also very sure I do not want to make that Christmas Eve call to you. I don't want to have to call you at all and by closing on this day we will reduce the likelihood of anyone getting a school related call telling them to isolate.

Some work will be online for students and we will share these details with students over the next week. I appreciate that this is far from ideal and I am aware some of you will not be able to make plans for childcare that day and so a team of staff will be in to supervise the children who cannot be at home. I am aware that childcare can be organised with other families, but whilst everyone is trying to be so careful that will seem very risky for some of you.

It is my expectation that very few students will be in and I will ensure that those who are will be able to socially distance therefore hopefully eliminating the need to be asked to socially isolate from Christmas Eve.

Cont./...



Please complete the form via this [LINK](#) by **Tuesday 15th December** should you need your child to attend school on Friday 18th December. For those who need to use this option, I will update you of the arrangements next week.

Yours sincerely



Mrs D Smith
Headteacher

