

Wednesday 9th December 2020

**End of Term Arrangements**

**School Closes Thursday 17th December / School reopens Tuesday 5th January**

Yesterday afternoon we received an update from the DfE with changes to end of term arrangements. Following discussions with the Local Authority, school staff and governors there will be a change to the end of term date and the date of return in January.

**School will now close to children on Thursday 17th December**. Friday 18th December will be an INSET day – in line with the DfE guidance:

*‘Where term would normally finish in the week commencing 21 December, schools may wish to consider adjusting term dates to make Friday 18 December the last day of term (which could be an INSET day), and bringing forward the start of term in January by the same number of days’.*

**Online learning won’t take place on Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd December.**

**We will return to school on Tuesday 5th January.**

Public Health England have advised that there will need to be a 6-day window after the final day of teaching in which schools will be asked to contact trace where necessary. This will allow enough time for positive coronavirus (COVID-19) cases to be identified and confirmed by a test and for relevant contacts in our school to be traced.

6 days after the final day of teaching (Wednesday 23rd December) staff will not be asked to play a role in any contact tracing.

**In effect this means that administration and senior staff won’t have to be available for work on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.**

Some schools will break up on different days. This is our local decision. We will not be having an INSET day on Friday 21st May so that the children will still receive their entitlement to 190 days education this year.

**Revised Christmas Activity Dates**

We won’t be losing any activities from the previous list but have changed some of the dates:

* Wednesday 10th December: ‘Can do Christmas’ performance – **children only**
* Friday 11th December: Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day – **children only**
* Tuesday 15th December: Father Christmas visit to the Nursery (Mrs. Adie’s class) **– children only**
* Tuesday 15th December 2.00pm: Christmas Story Time – **online invitation to parents / families**
* Wednesday 16th December: Father Christmas visit to Key Stage 1 **– children only**
* Wednesday 16th December: Father Christmas visit to Lower Key Stage 2 **– children only**
* Wednesday 16th December: Father Christmas visit to Upper Key Stage 2 **– children only**
* Thursday 17th December: Father Christmas visit to Reception / Nursery (Mrs. Knox’s class) **– children only**
* Thursday 17th December:Father Christmas will be reading ‘The Little Christmas Tree’ **– children only**
* **Thursday 17th** December 1.30pm: Christmas Raffle / The Nativity / class Christmas carols / Animoto– **online invitation to parents / families**

**Free School Meals**

We recognise that this year especially there is a great deal of hardship amongst our families. To help reduce some of the pressure the school will be providing a £10.00 Asda voucher for each child in receipt of free school meals. We will contact you with further details about this. This is in addition to any support provided by the Local Authority.

If your child doesn’t receive free school meals but you would feel that you need some additional support, please contact school and ask for Mrs Rogers. We have been working with a range of partners who can help families and we will try to support you as much as possible.

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This year we are asking you not to send cards and gifts into school. Instead, the staff have asked that if anyone makes a donation to our Just Giving page then any money raised will be used to support children and families in our community:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/calegreen-primaryschool?utm\_term=npekvVkJ3

I understand that these changes have come very late in the term. However, the Department for **Education and Public Health guidance received yesterday is clear that it is advisable for school to close** on the 17th December. We have continued to follow their advice since March and I firmly believe that this is the right course of action for our school.

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/schools-closing-early-christmas-covid-19424901>

Yours sincerely,

Mr. D. Marshall

Headteacher

