



St Catherine's C of E School

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Louise Hussey Head of School: Ms Pippa Warner

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9.12.2020

Dear Parents,

On Tuesday the Government announced that schools that were due to break-up on Friday 18 December can now use an inset day in order to finish on Thursday 17 December. The aim of this is to avoid school staff having to be involved in supporting track and trace on Christmas Eve. The guidance states:

'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.'

Unfortunately, we have booked external staff training for Monday so therefore it is not possible for us to move our INSET day as this would result in children needed to be in school on 31st Dec.

Therefore, school will be open as usual on Friday 18th December.

The guidance says if someone tests positive for coronavirus, those who were in close contact with them 48 hours before the symptoms emerged are likely to need to be told to self-isolate. This means that if the school term finishes on Friday 18th December, pupils or staff who develop symptoms up to the Sunday could still have had close contact with others in school within those 48 hours. As it is only schools that hold the information about bubbles and seating plans, PHE is relying on schools and school leaders to provide this.

The additional challenge is that while the symptoms may develop two days after the end of the term (e.g. on the Sunday), in many cases it could take people a few additional days to book a test and receive the results. This means that PHE may need information about close contacts into the start of the following week.

The DfE and PHE have already said where a pupil or staff member develops symptoms after the 48 hours, they should not need to contact the school and can use the 'normal' national track and trace system.

If any children do test positive up to, and including 24th December, could you please contact Mrs Hussey on Class Dojo. Mrs Hussey will check Class Dojo once a day during the morning. If a pupil does test positive, Mrs Hussey will notify all families with children in that

bubble on Class Dojo so we are asking parents to check Class Dojo daily up to and including Christmas Eve.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy Christmas.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 5th January.

Louise Hussey

Executive Headteacher.