



WOODBROOK VALE SCHOOL

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December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. I expect you will have heard that the Department for Education has given schools permission to make the last day of term an Inset day. Here at Woodbrook Vale, **we will be open on 18 December!**

The decision to move an inset day and alter the school calendar is not something that can be done suddenly at short notice. We have planned our year, booked up inset days and communicated with our parents and carers who trust us to stick to our published arrangements. Any extra Inset day this term would have to be 'paid back' with an extra day of schooling somewhere else and we believe that would be disruptive.

Furthermore, our last day of term includes important, purposeful learning such as feedback on mock exam papers and activities to consolidate learning, blended with the light and enjoyment of Christmas in a school setting including the traditional ritual of staff singing the students out (albeit at a Covid safe distance). It is simply not to be missed!

End of Term Arrangements

The arrangements for the Friday 18 December **2020**. In line with previous years, we are planning to allow students to leave a little earlier than our normal closing time. Lunch will be provided and classes will be dismissed at **1.30pm**. Students are requested not to visit their ex-primary school on the way home.

Due to the early school closure, there will be no after school provision on **18 December 2019**. If you have childcare difficulties and need your son or daughter to stay at school until 3.00pm, please contact the Student Support Office by Friday 11 December so that suitable arrangements can be made.

Please note: 4 January is our Inset day. Students return to school on 5 January 2021.



Arrangements for reporting positive cases of Covid in the holidays.

I am sure, like us, you are cautiously optimistic that the new vaccines will bring an eventual end to the disruption and the difficulties that some of our families are experiencing. In the meantime, we must continue to follow all the guidelines, so please take careful note of the following information.

If a student or staff member tests positive for Covid and their symptoms started on **17, 18, 19 or 20 December**, parents, carers and staff are being asked to inform the school on office@wbvs.co.uk using the words 'positive case' in the subject line. That email will be monitored at midday each day, for Covid messages, up to and including 24 December. The school will then conduct the contact tracing using the seating plans and information we hold and send out notifications for those who will need to self-isolate.

If a student tests positive and their symptoms started **on or after 21 December** the positive case will **NOT** need to be reported to school but will be managed via the national test and trace service.

Finally, I would like to extend a personal thank you to all the parents who have sent in messages of encouragement, made face coverings at their own expense and worked with us so cooperatively to keep everyone as safe as we can this term. I am moved by the kindness and generosity of everyone in our school community from the staff, to the students, to the governors, to the agencies who work with us. To all of you: Happy Christmas and warm wishes for a New Year full of hope and joy.

Kind regards,

Rachael Fraser
Headteacher

