

10th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the Christmas holidays, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you once again for your ongoing support over the past term. The many positive messages our staff have received from you have been very welcome, particularly when we have had to make staffing adjustments or bubble closures at short notice.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, schools have worked so incredibly hard to find ways past the obstacles and continue to provide high quality education for your children. The innovative ways that have been employed to deliver the usual Christmas performances, Christmas dinners and festive celebrations in a Covid safe way have been a feat of ingenuity.

You may have heard in the press recently that the Department for Education has given schools permission to close schools one day early before the Christmas holidays so senior leaders would not need to be available to liaise with test and trace up to Christmas Eve. As a Trust, we feel closing a day early at such short notice would not support you as parents in terms of work or other commitments you may have; we will be open to all pupils as usual on Friday 18th December. All our Head teachers and senior leaders at the Trust are happy to continue to engage with the DfE, Public Health England and NHS Test and Trace through the holidays, in the same way we have been since March.

If your child tests positive for Coronavirus (Covid-19) during the school holidays, please inform your School Head as soon as possible by email. Heads will check emails up to and including Christmas Eve so that the school can work with Public Health England and Test and Trace to identify and inform those who may need to isolate. Following this date, please continue to inform us of any positive cases by email for our records, though there would be no action required on the part of the school.

As you will be aware, we have continued to ask parents to collect children a little earlier on a Friday afternoon while we work through the additional pressures in the current climate. Heads are reviewing the logistics of ensuring we can return to a full opening on Friday afternoons whilst continuing to maintain the routines we currently have in place to keep children and staff safe. They will be in contact with you shortly regarding arrangements for individual schools.

Whatever your plans for the Christmas holiday period, please keep safe. I hope you are all able to enjoy time with your children and families and look forward to a brighter 2021!

Thank you again for your support.

With best wishes,

Adrian Massey and everyone at Bridge Schools