



Emmbrook Infant and Junior Schools



Emmbrook Road, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG41 1JR

**Head Teachers: Mrs Corrina Gillard (Emmbrook Infant School)
and Mr Jim Usher (Emmbrook Junior School)**

10th December 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

You may be aware that, on Tuesday 8th December, the Department for Education announced that schools could close early for Christmas and can use an Inset day to achieve this.

Like most other schools in Wokingham, our INSET days for this year have been planned for a long time with the focus of these days being directly linked to the time of year and our strategic priorities. Moving one at this late stage gives us no possibility of organising appropriate and worthwhile training for the staff. We feel this would be a waste of valuable resources. We are aware some schools are moving to remote learning and others already had an INSET day planned.

As we have received no directive from Wokingham Borough Council to close early and to support our parent community who may not be in a position to take an additional day off work, we have decided that our **last day of term will remain the 18th of December** as planned and shared previously. The Junior School will close half an hour earlier than planned at 1:30pm for all pupils, and the Infant school will close at the given staggered times of Yr1 - 1.40pm, Foundation - 1.50pm and Yr2 - 2.00pm.

This does present an issue for the senior leadership of both schools as we have been asked to provide support with contact tracing for six clear days after term finishes in physical school buildings. We will provide this support only until the 24th of December, from **Friday 25th December, all contact tracing will be carried out by NHS Test and Trace.**

It is important that parents & carers understand that up to and including the 24th of December we may need to alert you that your child has been in close or prolonged contact with a positive case of Covid 19. **This would consequently mean a period of self-isolation, in this instance we will contact the parents concerned via email.**

We recognise that a period of self-isolation would be absolutely dreadful timing for families over the festive period. Equally you will understand how imperative it is that we inform you, especially if your child is meeting with elderly or medical vulnerable family or friends over the festive period.

If your child is identified as a confirmed case of COVID-19, please would you email the usual admin email address which will be checked once a day giving details of the date of the first day of symptoms (if shown) and date of positive test result. If anyone in your child's bubble has a positive case you will be informed via email and anyone in the bubble will need to isolate for a period of 14 days from their last contact.

We are aware that some parents will be relieved by this and others concerned but we feel this is the best action for both schools. Unless we receive a clear directive from Wokingham Borough Council we will proceed as outlined above.

Stay safe & Merry Christmas.

Mrs C Gillard & Mr J Usher