

14 December 2020

Dear All,

What an amazingly strange year 2020 has been! As we wind down to the end of term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support, hard work and extra efforts to help us to keep the school as open as possible during this pandemic.

As you may have heard on the news recently, the DfE decided (at very late notice) that schools could take Friday 18th December as an INSET day. We have decided not to do this for many reasons. The first is the late notice for you as parents to try to rearrange your working patterns in such a short amount of time. This would not be an extra INSET day but one already allocated, so to unpick the planning that has already happened would be disruptive too. However, if you now find yourself with some siblings off school and others still here, there will be some work on the google classrooms for you to do, or not, if it is easier to keep your child off school on Friday.

The purpose of adding in an INSET day on Friday 18th December was to make it so that school staff did not have to be available for Track and Trace systems on Christmas Eve. Personally, I think that one day will not make that much difference! As always, if your child develops symptoms or has a positive test result please email school as soon as possible for us to pass the message on to others. Fingers crossed that we all stay safe and healthy.

A big thank you to everyone who donated Secret Santa gifts. Class 3 have chosen and wrapped up their gifts today – how exciting! It is Class 2 tomorrow and Class 1 on Wednesday. If anyone forgets their money or would like to buy multiple presents then the shop will be open again on Thursday.

This week the children can still wear Christmassy clothing if they want to or uniform if they prefer to wear that. On Thursday it is Christmas Dinner and Party Day, so definitely Christmas finery then!

Class 3 have made some fantastic stained glass window panes for St Helen's Church. If you are in the vicinity over Christmas, have a wander around and have a look at them. Apparently they look fantastic. Veronica, whom some of you may know, has also completed some windows down at the Church which will also be worth a look.

We are due to have an INSET day on Monday 4th January and so look forward to seeing all the children back on Tuesday 5th January. Unless I hear anything different over the Christmas holidays, we will be continuing with our COVID restrictions again in the New Year. Class 1 leaving at 3.10pm has worked really well with easing congestion on the car park. Thank you to everyone who has helped make this happen. Breakfast Club and After School Club will continue, but only up to 4.30pm. We cannot go back to our 6pm close until we are not classed as being in bubbles anymore. Hopefully this will change in the near future.

Thank you once again for all your support and help. I hope that you all have a very happy Christmas and New Year and stay safe and healthy.