



Willerby Carr Lane Primary School

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10 December 2020

Dear Parents

School is staying open on December 18th

You may have heard the Government's announcement that schools can close a day early, if they so choose, by designating it as a training (INSET) day. Schools would then have to cancel one of their existing training days in the Spring or Summer term. We will not be doing this. We, along with Anlaby and Kirk Ella schools, will be staying open on Friday December 18th.

It is frustrating that, ever since March, school leaders have been informed, at the very last minute, often via the media, of guidance that often seems poorly thought through. This is no different.

The idea behind closing school a day early, is that Headteachers would not have to be on call to handle track and trace on 24th December. It has nothing to do with making Christmas safer. As I have communicated previously, any bubble that 'pops' from tomorrow onwards, will cause those affected to self-isolate for 14 days – i.e. up to and including Christmas Day. Closing on Friday 18th only, does not affect this.

I am acutely aware that many parents are key-workers, self-employed or would be forced to take annual or unpaid leave to look after their children. Where this has been necessary due to bubbles bursting, you have worked in full support of us. I have no intention of asking you to do this just so that I don't have to be on call for 1 day.

It is also the case that our INSET days are very valuable to us. They provide a few key opportunities through the year when staff can engage in a day of important professional development. They are organised well in advance and are scheduled to fit with our school development plan. To propose that we could simply arrange one next week, shows a staggering lack of understanding by the DFE.

Some parents have suggested they might not be attending school for part of next week. In terms of attendance, the school will not be issuing referrals for penalty notices; this would not be in our community or the public interest. (The only possible exception being any individual who is already, currently on an attendance plan as issued by the LA Education Welfare Officer).

If any of our pupils are confirmed as testing positive for coronavirus during the school holidays, please continue to let the school know as soon as possible. Please email admin@carrlanepprimary.net and mark your email as "Positive Coronavirus Notification". I will be checking the email account at 10.00am every morning and responding to any positive notifications up to and including 24th December.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas, however you are spending it.

Mr Sean Smith
Headteacher