



3 December 2021

Dear Parent

You will no doubt have heard reports on the media about school closures, circuit breakers and part time attendance.

Having worked in education for 31 years, it is my opinion that school is, beyond a doubt, the best place for children and I will do everything in my power to ensure that we have as many children in school on as many days as we possibly can. I am pleased to say that DE have categorically stated that there are no plans for an early closure or a circuit breaker before Christmas.

However, over the last 18 months we have become all too aware that there are no certainties in life and, with this in mind and so that there is no possibility of children missing out on their Carol Service or their Christmas Dinner, I have decided to move the recording of the Carol Service to Tuesday, 14 December instead of Thursday, 16 December and Christmas Dinner day will be Wednesday, 15 December instead of Friday, 17 December.

Please do not misinterpret these changes in any way. There are no plans for an early closure of schools.

Please do not make any changes to your Christmas Dinner booking on School Money. Mrs Lowry will make any adjustments that are needed – you do not need to do anything. Also, the School Money system will not be available on Monday, 20 or Tuesday, 21 December. In order that Mrs Lowry can have accurate numbers for Monday, 20 December, could I ask anyone who wishes their child to have a school dinner or attend Breakfast Club on that day to book and pay for it by 12 noon on Friday, 17 December.

You will also be aware that the Covid 19 pandemic is having a major impact on staff attendance and it is increasingly difficult to employ substitute teachers. At the moment we are coping well, however, this can change very quickly. If a teacher is absent I will:

1. Employ a substitute teacher.
2. Redeploy existing staff.
3. Ask a class to remain at home.

Please be assured that asking a class to remain at home will be a very last resort and one that I would be very reluctant to make use of. With this in mind, however, the teachers are preparing a 10-day learning pack. **PLEASE DO NOT USE THE LEARNING PACK UNTIL YOU ARE DIRECTED TO DO SO.** The learning pack which your child will receive on Friday, 10 December will only be used in the event that a class are asked to remain at home or we have to flip to remote learning.

Kind regards.

J LOUGHINS
Principal