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Headteacher: Brett Stevenson

Wednesday, 9 December 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you are well, and that your festive preparations are taking shape.

I am writing with regards to a development announced by the Government yesterday evening, regarding an INSET day that schools could take if they wanted to, on Friday 18th December. This would not be an extra INSET day, and would need to be 'put back' at a later time in the year.

As you may be aware, schools have a duty to report to Public Health England and relevant authorities if there is a positive test of COVID-19 for a child or member of staff within school. In the main this applies to term time only, but includes weekends.

If this was the case, it would mean that some children and staff would need to self isolate for 14 days. The implementation of an INSET day on Friday next week would mean that there would not be the possibility of a child coming into school, who may be either showing signs of COVID-19, or who may develop symptoms in the next few days. The gesture from the Government is well meaning; it would move the 'window' where schools have to act in a statutory way, allowing for incubation and a period of time for a test result to be returned, and thus releasing school staff from having to work up until 23rd December.

The school will be open to children next Friday. It **not** an INSET day. I have taken this decision as I feel that it far too short notice to give to families, who may need to seek childcare provision.

I will be on work 'duty' to field track and trace until 24th December.

We have been very fortunate not to have a positive case in our school. However, there is always the possibility that there could be in the days ahead. If this is the case:

- I will inform those who need informing, after taking advice from Public Health England. This will initially be a text, and then I will telephone you personally. Please note the number will be withheld.

Please remember that you have a duty to report to school if your child tests positive for COVID-19 even if it is the weekend. The same applies for the first few days of the Christmas holiday

- During the period of 18th December – 24th December if you need to report that your child has tested positive please email me at:

Federation.head@blakeney.gloucs.sch.uk

I will not necessarily respond immediately, as I will only be monitoring my emails between 4pm and 5.30pm

If your child receives a positive test result after December 23th, then please do not contact me, but go through the normal Track and Trace procedure, in line with the Government Guidance.

Thank you for your support, and of course, take care.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Stevenson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brett Stevenson
Headteacher