



Osborne School

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Headteacher: Sonia White

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Dear Parents, Carers and Staff

I wanted to write to you all in case you hear anything in the news about an email schools received from the Department for Education (DfE) yesterday. The email is suggesting that schools choose to put an INSET day on Friday 18 December, primarily because they are asking schools and school leaders to continue assisting with contact tracing for 6 days following the final day of teaching, meaning that some school staff must remain 'on call' until the 24 December. The DfE have also suggested that we balance the INSET day by bringing forward the start of term in January or remove one of the inset days later in the academic year, however this would cause difficulties as staff have already lost the opportunity to carry out essential training due to the constraints put on us during this very difficult time.

We have no intention of changing the diaries at such short notice. We have things booked in for the children and we also know that a late change could be very difficult for our families in terms of childcare.

The information published does however ask that we make everyone aware of the arrangements in terms of Covid-19 cases during the school holidays so it would be helpful if you could make yourselves familiar with the following:

- For the **first 6 days** after teaching ends on 18 December, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms **within 48 hours of being in school**, please inform the school via email to: s.white@osborne.hants.sch.uk
The school will then be asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.
- Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms **more than 48 hours since being in school**, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

I do hope this is clear but if you are unsure what to do then please do not hesitate in emailing me on the address above and I would be very happy to advise. Please use this email as the school will not be open, nor the phone system monitored, during the Christmas closure.

Thank you as always for your continued support and co-operation.

Kind regards

Sonia White
Headteacher