

Kellington Primary School



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Thursday 10th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As you may have heard on the news, or read in the press, the Government issued guidance on Tuesday 8th December suggesting that schools may wish to close a day early, on Thursday 17th December.

I would therefore like to share with you the following, which I received last night.

Message from Ian Yapp, STAR MAT CEO, with regard to a possible Training Day on 18th December 2020.

On 8th December schools were notified by the Department for Education in an unexpected communication that they could consider moving around staff training time in order to take a staff training day on 18th December and swap it with one later in the academic year.

Having considered this matter fully as a Trust, we have decided to leave our term-dates in place as previously circulated. All of our Trust schools will therefore remain fully open on Friday 18th December 2020 as originally planned. We have also aligned this, wherever possible, with local non-Trust schools.

Whilst the principle of allowing for some staff training time, or in the words of the DfE 'to ensure that staff get the time off they need and deserve' might be sound, there is simply not enough notice time to re-arrange staff training and for parents we feel the notice period for school closure is unacceptable.

Many of our schools also have an exciting and creative calendar of events planned throughout next week, with every single pupil day in school right now counting, whether that be for educational progress or for pastoral wellbeing after those long weeks and months in lockdown.

This was of course a challenging decision to make on balance, but one we hope that our Trust community respects we have made with the right intentions.

Therefore, as planned, our last day of school will be Friday 18th December with all classes finishing at the normal time. We are looking forward to an exciting week ahead and whilst this does mean we will need to check the school email in relation to potential COVID 19 notifications until December 24th (more precise details about communications next week), we are really pleased to have the full week in school.

As always any questions or queries please do not hesitate to ask.

Kind regards

Helen Humphrys
Headteacher