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December 2020

Dear parents and carers

This has been an exceptional year that I am sure we will all remember for a long time to come. As a result of the support of you, as parents and carers, along with the dedication of the school team, we approach Christmas together in the hope of a much brighter New Year. Whilst it is wonderful to see a vaccine for Covid-19 being started to be administered to the most vulnerable in our community, it is important that we remain alert to the virus, which is likely to remain in the community for some considerable time.

On 8th December the Department for Education asked all schools to consider closing a day earlier than anticipated on Thursday 17th December, to reduce the time period when schools would be required to notify any positive Covid-19 case in school. The Trust considered this carefully and decided to keep school open as planned on 18th December. This was a challenging decision, but we feel that children have already missed enough days in school this year due to the pandemic. We considered the difficulty any early closure would have presented to you as parents and carers at short notice. In addition we have considered the possibility of children missing out on a free school meal, where eligible, as a result of early closure.

For the first 6 days only following the end of term on 18th December (up to and including Christmas Eve), we ask you please if your child tests positive for Covid -19, having developed symptoms within 48 hours of last being in school, that you notify the school via email. We have created a special email address for this purpose and this will be monitored each day.

Covid19@srps.plymouth.sch.uk

This will ensure the school can assist the test and trace process, to help to advise others to self-isolate if required. Should your child develop Covid-19 after Christmas, please inform school during the weekend of 2nd and 3rd

January, so that together we ensure that we are all ready to commence the new term on 6th January.

We have had to cancel a whole school inset day on two occasions due to the current pandemic. We have finally managed to secure this training day for the staff on the 5th January 2021. Therefore, the children will return after the Christmas break on Wednesday 6th January and not Tuesday 5th January as previously stated. This will replace the inset day on 28th May 2021 and therefore the children will now be in school on this day.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Frame
Headteacher