

ST CHAD'S PATCHWAY CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Wednesday 9th December

Re: Update about End of Term Arrangements – Final day of Term 2 will be Thursday 17th December

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday evening the Government announced plans for the end of term and the run-up to Christmas for schools across the country. You may be aware from social media of the pressures being placed on the Department for Education (DfE) to close schools early so that contact can be reduced for families ahead of Christmas in the hope that this will reduce the spread of Covid-19. As a school, we have waited and waited for their guidance, which finally came yesterday evening. Given that the end of term is so close, we wanted to give you as much notice as possible about the change, in order to give you time to make the necessary arrangements.

The Government has suggested that all schools across the country should make Thursday 17th December the last day of attendance in school in order to reduce the risk of infection before the Christmas break and to bring forward the date when schools will need to track and trace following positive Covid-19 test results at the start of the holiday.

We apologise for any inconvenience this is going to cause as it means that **the last day of term will now be Thursday 17th December**, instead of Friday 18th December. We have worked alongside other local schools following the DfE announcement; we are aware that local primaries, including Coniston, Stoke Lodge, Callicroft and Holy Family and all local secondary schools have made the same decision to close with the support of the Education Department at the Local Authority.

As a school, we will send home a paper-based whole school learning project for the children to complete at home on Friday 18th December. This project may be completed as a family with all siblings from the family contributing to one project; the time dedicated to the project will be entirely down to you as parents/carers. Please see below for further details about the project. There will be no online learning on this day. Please note your child's attendance will not be affected by this decision.

As Thursday 17th December will be our final day in school before Christmas, this will be our non-uniform day. We will have our Christmas lunch (as planned) and our Christmas parties will move to the Thursday too.





We know that some families have been worried about the prospect of children having to self-isolate over the Christmas period and it would be wrong to suggest that this might not happen. The Government has set an expectation that schools should be informed by staff, parents and carers of any positive test results from the end of term until Wednesday 23rd December, so that we can follow up and inform anyone who is a close contact that they need to self-isolate. We will provide further details in the next few days about how that will happen and obviously hope that we will not need to be in touch and that you all can enjoy the Christmas break.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support at this challenging time.

Kind regards,

Steph Jenkins
Headteacher

Becky Moyce
Chair of Governors



Whole School home learning project for Friday 18th December

This may be completed independently by the child, with a sibling and submitted as a joint school project, or as a family. Time spent on this is based on parental choice and is optional.

This project may be presented however you wish – as a poster with pictures and comments or labels depending on the child's age (paper provided), as a powerpoint or as a video presentation.

The task:

Many countries celebrate Christmas in different ways. Research how another country of your choice celebrates Christmas.

Some of the following websites may help:

<https://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/>

<https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/christmas-around-the-world.html>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/15790210>

As a structure, you may wish to try the challenge (or some of it) below:

Challenge:

C – Carols – What Christmas Carols are traditionally sung in your chosen country?

H – Homes – How are homes decorated for Christmas in your country of choice?

R – Reading – What traditional Christmas stories are told in your country of choice?

I – Ingredients – Can you list the ingredients used to make a Christmas treat eaten in your chosen country?

S – Santa – What is Santa or Father Christmas known as in your chosen country?

T – Traditions – What special Christmas traditions are carried out?

M – Main Christmas Meal – What is eaten and when?

A – Advent - Is Advent celebrated in your country of choice and if so, how?

S – Summary – Can you describe 3 differences between how Christmas is celebrated here and how Christmas is celebrated in your chosen country?

You may wish to research a different religious festival to Christmas and compare this festival with another country.

Any photos of work may be sent to Class Dojo.

