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Dear Parents/Carers,

I have previously written to you recognising the concerns raised by families about sending their children to school in the last week of term. While we understand and empathise with all your concerns we cannot authorise any absence outside of Covid related issues.

You may be aware that the government gave schools the opportunity to have an additional INSET day on the 18th December. Although this does not provide complete security about not being isolated over Christmas, it does give all families and staff a longer period away from school before the allocated time to see friends and family.

School leaders have to remain on call for reported cases in our school community after schools close for 6 days to inform families of potential isolation. Closing a day early reduces this on call period by a day.

As you can imagine staff are extremely anxious about having their Christmas period impacted by a case in their class. Many have avoided seeing family members since we returned to school in September and intend to see them at Christmas.

Taking everything into consideration we have made the following decisions:

- The last day for children to attend school will be Thursday 17th December
- The 18th December will be an INSET day
- In the final week there will be no mixing of children beyond their class
- The same staff will work in the same class all week
- There will be no external teachers in school to deliver curriculum sessions
- Staff will be taking additional measures to maintain a safe distance from children

All these measures are in place to reduce the risk of isolation if there is a confirmed case in school next week.

We will run our BHPS Xtra provision next week but there will not be an after school session on Thursday 17th.

### **IMPORTANT**

Notifying the school of a confirmed case of coronavirus between Thursday 17th December and Wednesday 23rd December inclusive, you are requested to inform the school if your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or develops symptoms within 48 hours of being in school. The school will be required to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. Please contact the school by email to the following addresses [admin@bigginhillps.com](mailto:admin@bigginhillps.com) and [j.ellis@bigginhillps.com](mailto:j.ellis@bigginhillps.com)



Where a pupil tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or develops symptoms more than 48 hours after they were last in school, there is no requirement to contact the school as there is no requirement for the school to support contact tracing. Instead, you should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace. Should your child develop symptoms or test positive after Wednesday 23rd December, which will impact on their return to school, this only needs to be reported to the school on the first day of term, Monday 4th January via the school absence line or by emailing [admin@bigginhillps.com](mailto:admin@bigginhillps.com)

If you have any questions regarding these arrangements please contact me at [j.ellis@bigginhillps.com](mailto:j.ellis@bigginhillps.com)

Yours sincerely,



James Ellis

Head Teacher

