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Website: www.wharcliffeside.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr M Gaughan
Chair of Governors: Mrs S Brookes
Admin Officer: Mrs T Daghish

Thursday 9th December 2020

Dear Parent or Carer

We received an email from the Department for Education late yesterday so I feel it is important to clarify our position.

No change in term dates

Despite what you may have seen on the news, we will remain **OPEN** on Friday 18th December as previously advertised. We have consulted with the other schools in our Trust and have made this decision for the following reasons:

1. *The proposed change of date will make no difference to potential COVID transmission in terms of the likelihood of staff or families isolating over Christmas.*
2. *Many parents and carers are at work on Friday 18th December and I do not believe creating a childcare issue at short notice is in the interests of families that were expecting us to be open.*
3. *We already had the freedom to choose when our training days are, and we made the decision relating to dates months ago. Families and staff have arranged their holiday time around these dates.*
4. *We have to deliver training in order to take the day as a training day and it is too short notice to arrange any.*
5. *Due to other training commitments, we do not have a day that we can transfer from later in the academic year to make the time up.*

I realise that this may be disappointing for some families, especially given the way that this has been reported in some of the press and on social media. Thank you for your continued support.

Track and Trace

School will continue to provide 'Track & Trace' functions for the first 6 days of the Christmas holidays, Saturday 19th December to Thursday 24th December inclusive. Please contact me on headteacher@wharcliffeside.sheffield.sch.uk if your child tests positive for COVID-19 during these dates. If they had developed symptoms in the 48 hour period after having been in school, we are duty bound to inform anyone they have been in contact with. Parents and carers should always follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Track and Trace.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Yours Sincerely

Mr Gaughan

