

10th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Friday 18th December 2020:

Please be aware that contrary to some misleading media reports, schools are not unilaterally closing on the 18th December for staff training. Yesterday the Government updated its guidance for schools regarding the end of term and the expectations upon academies. This includes the ability for the academy to put in an INSET day on Friday 18th December.

I wanted to let you know as soon as I could that Noel-Baker Academy, **will not be putting in an INSET day on the 18th December.** We feel that the notice is too short for parents to make arrangements. Also, as we have just had two INSET days, I feel that we would not be able to use it to its full benefit. The last day is also traditionally one where we get dressed up, enjoy our end of term rewards and start to celebrate Christmas as well as engaging in learning. We think that our pupils have already missed out on enough this year.











This means we will be open for our usual final day on 18th December. We will be having our traditional early finish, which was communicated to parents via our bulletin last week.

Attendance to school and requests to isolate:

We are increasingly being contacted by parents who are concerned that they feel they need their child to isolate from school to protect elderly and vulnerable relatives over the Christmas period. Many of you have told me you are hoping to see family and friends for the first time in a long time. I completely understand your reasoning for this and will try to accommodate all requests where I feel I can legally do so.

However, I would genuinely ask all our families to protect Christmas for all of our students, our staff and their families, many of whom might be vulnerable. **Please do not send your child to school if they have any symptoms that might be Covid – no matter how mild.** Please also familiarise yourself with some of the wider symptoms too. I have included this information published by the BBC and taken from the WHO. **This is the only way to guarantee the safety of our community.**

Wherever possible I wish to avoid the awful task of having to phone families on 24th December to tell them that they, their child or children have to isolate over Christmas Day.

Symptoms	Coronavirus	Flu	Cold
 Fever	Common	Common	Rare
 Cough	Common	Common	Mild
 Loss of taste and smell	Sudden	Rare	Sometimes
 Fatigue	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
 Headaches	Sometimes	Common	Rare
 Aches and pains	Sometimes	Common	Common
 Runny/stuffy nose	Rare	Sometimes	Common
 Sore throat	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
 Sneezing	No	No	Common
 Shortness of breath	Sometimes	No	No
 Diarrhoea	Sometimes for children	Sometimes, especially for children	No

Source: WHO, CDC

BBC

Track and Trace over the Christmas holiday:

School leaders have been asked by the DFE to continue to track and trace cases of CV-19 in their schools for six days after schools breakup for the Christmas period.

In order to support us with track and trace moving forward, if your child tests positive for CV-19, please email: covid@noelbakeracademy.co.uk with the following information:

- name of pupil
- date symptoms started
- date of positive test result
- date last in the Academy

This email account will be monitored daily up until 24th December 2020.

This means that should there be a confirmed case of CV-19 in your child's class or bubble, we may need to contact you to inform you and ask that your child isolates for 14 days from the point of their last contact in school.

Should we need to inform you that your child has been traced as a direct contact of a confirmed case, we will do this via text message and/or email. With this in mind, if you have changed your mobile or email address very recently, please contact the Attendance Team on attendance@noelbakeracademy.co.uk to ensure that we have your most recent details on file.

Thank you for your continued support for the Academy.

Yours sincerely



Ann Donaghy
Head teacher