



Dove Bank Primary School

Putting Children First

Headteacher: Mr James Cheesman
office@dovebank.leics.sch.uk

Bagworth Road
Nailstone
Warwickshire
CV13 0QJ
Tel: 01530 262371
www.dovebankprimary.co.uk

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CHANGE OF DATE FOR END OF AUTUMN TERM – THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER

Dear Parents / Carers,

Yesterday afternoon, the Department for Education (DfE) made an announcement that all teaching in schools should end on Thursday 17th December. This is a day earlier than planned and means that school will be closed to children on Friday 18th December and it will become a disaggregated training day for all staff.

The DfE has recognised that this communication has arrived very late in the term. However, despite the frustration of being given such little time to plan for childcare, I believe this to be the right decision. The earlier finish reduces the risk of children and staff being identified as close contacts on Friday and having to self-isolate over Christmas. It also ensures that school staff are not contact tracing right up to Christmas Eve.

It remains vital for all children to be in school up to and including the last day of teaching on Thursday 17th December.

To keep our community safe, it is important that all parents and carers follow the guidance below from the end of term on Thursday 17th December:

- If your child has COVID-19 symptoms you should book a test immediately. Test centres are frequently returning results within 24 hours.
- If symptoms begin within 48 hours of 3.30pm on Thursday 17th December and a positive test result is received then you must inform the school using our specific email address: covid@dovebank.leics.sch.uk to alert us as quickly as possible. This is because your child may have been infectious whilst at school.
- We will then track and trace close contacts and inform parents via email if their child needs to self-isolate.
- Parents / carers must inform NHS Track and Trace of social contacts.
- Parents DO NOT need to inform the school of any cases where symptoms began outside of the first 48 hours as they will not have been infectious whilst at school.
- If your child tests positive during the rest of the Christmas break, you do not need to inform school until the first day of term.

By following the above guidance, it will ensure that we can give families as much notice as possible over the Christmas period if plans need to be altered because of children or staff needing to self-isolate.

I sincerely hope that you can all enjoy some quality time to relax and enjoy the well-deserved Christmas break. Thank you once again for your continued support during what has been a very challenging time for everyone.

Kind regards

Mr J Cheesman
Headteacher

