



10 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Inset Day – Friday 18th December

On Tuesday the Department for Education (DfE) issued a statement within the daily update Briefings sent to schools, that the last day of term, Friday 18th December, could be used as an Inset Day to allow time for positive Coronavirus cases to be identified and time for those people who are 'contacts' to be informed, whilst reducing the risk of family time being interrupted over the Christmas period.

The decision, therefore, is to finish the term on Thursday 17th December for schools in the Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust. Schools will have an INSET day on Friday 18th for staff to carry out training, planning and other necessary work.

This will allow an increase in time between the end of term and the Christmas increased family contact period of 23rd – 27th December.

Public Health has recommended that schools should be prepared to carry out track and trace for 6 days after the last teaching day to make sure that any infection is followed up to prevent further spread. This would mean that schools would need to remain on alert through to 24th December. The effect of the Inset Day on the 18th December would make this one day earlier to 23rd December (the start of the government Christmas increased family contact period).

The summary information from the DfE is:

- Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours since being in school, the school should be contacted.
- For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.
- Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

The overall impact of this would be that all families and school staff would be reassured that they would not be contacted due to a positive case contact from the 23rd December onwards, thus allowing a more relaxed Christmas period.

The Bath and Wells Diocesan Academies Trust operating as Bath & Wells Multi Academy Trust

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We have discussed this decision within the Trust and with Headteachers. It is a late announcement by the DfE which does not give us much time to prepare and we recognize that this decision may cause difficulties for some families. We do believe, however, that this is the right decision for the families in our community and for the staff in schools. Our intention is to provide you with more certainty about the Christmas period and allow you to make the necessary arrangements for your family.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "N Edwards". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nikki Edwards
CEO