

09 December 2020

Dear parent/carer

I hope you and you families are well?

I am writing to all parents/carers to address a recent announcement from the Department for Education (DfE). It has announced that schools can take **Friday 18th December 2020** as an INSET (training) day if they want to, instead of one planned later in the school year.

This is because schools are asked to remain contactable for 6 days after the final day of teaching, in order to assist with contact tracing where necessary. If the final day of teaching is 17th December, someone at the school (and it usually involves a number of people) would need to be contactable until 23rd December; if the final day of teaching is the 18th, then someone needs to be contactable until 24th.

Throughout the current pandemic we have followed national guidance and, as a Trust, we remain committed to doing so. This means offering our full support for the government's Track and Trace programme, and remaining contactable when requested to be so. I also remain committed to ensuring the wellbeing of all Trinity staff, and I do not feel it is reasonable to ask them to effectively remain 'on call' on Christmas Eve. I think, as parents/carers, you will appreciate that position.

Therefore, Trinity Trust will move to using the day (18th December 2020) as an INSET day. To clarify, this means the last day of teaching pupils will be 17th December 2020. More information on our slightly amended 2020-21 term dates will be published on the website, and we will also send a reminder of this change to all parents/carers in a future communication.

I would like to conclude by acknowledging the short notice of this development, particularly for parents/carers. It is not done lightly, nor without an appreciation of the potential impact on working patterns/childcare arrangements. However, I would also add that schools were informed of this yesterday by the DfE, and so I hope you will understand that we are acting as quickly as we can.

May I finish by adding a genuine 'thank you' for your continuing support for your child's school? In challenging times for us all, it makes the most difference. I hope you all enjoy a great Christmas and New Year, which heralds a brighter future as we look forward to 2021.

Michael Gosling
CEO - Trinity Multi-Academy Trust