

TWERTON INFANT SCHOOL & NURSERY

Poolemead Road, Twerton, Bath, BA2 1QR

T 01225 423526 or 314745

E twerton_inf@bathnes.gov.uk

<http://twertoninfant.school>



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Friday 11th December 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

INSET DAY on Friday 18th December

Following the announcement yesterday from our neighbouring school, St Michael's Junior Church School, I am now writing with a similar decision to end the term on Thursday 17th December. This will help many families who have children that attend both schools, who would otherwise be in a difficult position.

Consequently, Twerton Infant School and Nursery will have an INSET day on Friday 18th for staff to carry out training, planning and other necessary work. Thursday 17th December will be the last day of school for children. The Nativity Film Premiere will be brought forward to Thursday afternoon with children and families taking part in this celebration from the safety of their homes.

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.

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.

I apologise for any confusion caused by the timing of this decision but on balance I feel it is the most sensible way forward for the community.

Thank you for your understanding.

Best wishes,

George Samios

George Samios
Headteacher

