



9th December 2020

Amended End of Term Arrangements

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wrote to you earlier in the week with timings for our end of day staggered departures. However, yesterday, the government wrote to schools about the end of term arrangements and have published advice regarding early closure on Thursday 17th December.

In response to this, I am letting you know that the school will be closed to children on Friday 18th December. **The last day of term will now be Thursday 17th December** with the usual end of day timings. We will reopen as planned on Tuesday 5th January 2021. Please ensure that you continue to send your child/children to school up until Thursday 17th December. We apologise for the short notice but you will understand that this was only announced by the government yesterday and have looked to act as quickly as possible.

We have chosen to follow this guidance from the Department of Education following discussions with other local primary schools as well as schools across the Ark network. Staff will be working from home on the Friday and isolating in order to leave a clear isolation period before any intended travel to spend time with families as advised by the government. This is also beneficial to our families and community who can take advantage of this additional day of isolation to ensure we lessen the possible spread of the virus over the holiday period.

We will carry on working with Public Health England and will be available to help with contact tracing until 23rd December as necessary. The procedures are as follows for Test and Trace:

- Where a pupil or staff member has a positive test, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since last being in school, **the school should not be contacted.** Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
- For the first 6 days after school closes (up to 23rd December), if a pupil or staff member tests positive 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. **Parents should email me straight away and I will call you back: j.evelyn@arkatwoodprimary.org.**
- School staff are not asked to remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than 6 days after the final day of teaching (23rd December). **You are therefore not required to contact me from after this date onwards.**

Again, we apologise for the short notice but you will understand that this was only announced by the government yesterday. I do believe it is the right course of action to limit possible transmission ahead of the upcoming holidays.

Thank you for your ongoing understanding and support.

Best Wishes

James Evelyn
Headteacher, Ark Atwood Primary Academy