

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **CHANGE TO END OF TERM DATE**

As you will be aware from the news this week, cases of Covid are rising sharply and in the Three Rivers area alone, we have seen a 28% increase in positive cases in the last few days (<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>)

At school, we have been severely impacted by Covid and we are currently at 'outbreak status' in one class, with more children being sent home each day for PCR testing. We have Covid outbreak measures in place across the whole school to try to minimise risk. These include the children being back in their original 'bubbles' and eating lunch in their classrooms. At times during this term, it has been a real challenge to keep the school running as normal.

Given the news this week and the exceptional circumstances in which we are operating, we have made the decision to end the term early. **Children will now finish school at 2pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December**, and will not return until Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January for the new spring term (we hope!). This decision has the full backing of school governors and Hertfordshire County Council.

Although closed to children, school will remain open on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December so that deep cleaning can take place. The school office will be open should you need to drop things off, phone Sue/Nikki etc. Teachers will be available via email on Monday.

We are very sorry if this earlier closure causes you any inconvenience. However, our priority is to protect our whole school community – which includes many highly vulnerable adults and children –and keep us all as safe as possible.

We would like to say a big thank you to all of the parents/carers who have so diligently tested themselves and their children and kept children at home until results have been confirmed. May I remind you that any absence linked to Covid is recorded in a different way and *is not included* in your child's overall attendance rate.

Later today, I will send out a school newsletter which will contain information on reporting positive Covid cases over the school holidays, as well as dates for next term.

Please note that the children's Christmas Fair will go ahead as planned tomorrow, with all Covid restrictions in place.

Many thanks,  
Miss Lake