

19 November 2020

Dear Parents

Update: Closure on Friday Afternoons

Since we re-started in September, our staff have worked exceedingly hard to ensure that classes have stayed open. This has been a real challenge in the current circumstances and has resulted in a lot of extra work for staff and disruption for our students.

Our staff and students have been absolutely amazing, and I am sure that like me, you appreciate their hard work and commitment.

However, we cannot sustain this. So, in order to maintain standards to the highest level, we need to change how we will be operating for the next few weeks, until we break up on Friday 18th December. As such, from next **Friday, 27th November, we will be closing school at 12.30pm every Friday until the holidays.** Students will be given lunch before going home and will leave from the normal gate.

By closing on Friday afternoons, we will be able to move planning and preparation for all staff to Fridays. Planning and preparation time are a legal requirement in order for teachers to prepare lessons fully. The change will help us to have more stability for staffing during the week and cope better with staff absences due to COVID-19 self-isolation rules.

This is not an easy decision to make, but the only other alternative is to send some year groups home when we are short staffed which we really do not want to do!

If you have no childcare options available to you on Friday afternoons, then please do get in touch and I will discuss how we may be able to support you.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as I appreciate that this is short notice and an inconvenience, and apologise for this, but considering the alternative it is the best we can do in the current climate.

Kind regards

Terri Leighton
Principal

