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Growing & Learning Together through Faith, Friends and Fun

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Thursday 10th December 2020

Last Week of Term

Dear Parents/Guardians

Some of you may be aware that there was an announcement yesterday that most secondary schools in Flintshire will be closing this Friday 11th December and moving to online learning. Following this announcement, we have had a number of calls from concerned parents and carers on how this will affect them.

On Monday, we received correspondence from the Local Authority to say that all schools would remain open until Friday 18th December. Since that correspondence, Local Authority representatives have met with secondary school Headteachers due to the rising cases in secondary schools and the numbers currently having to self-isolate. They also considered scientific evidence surrounding secondary school aged children. As a result, most secondary schools made the decision to close early.

The safety of our pupils, staff and parents has always been our main priority, and governors and staff have worked extremely hard this year to ensure all additional safety measures have been adhered to. We are confident that we have all appropriate safety measures in place, and therefore, **we will remain open until Friday 18th December**. However, if a local or national decision is made at any point regarding all schools, then we may have to change our decision.

Although we have made this decision, we understand your concerns as Covid-19 cases in Flintshire continue to rise dramatically and we have also seen an increase in the number of local parents/family members who have tested positive and pupils who have needed to self-isolate. Enquiries have already started to come in from parents regarding their personal decision as to whether they can keep their child(ren) at home for the last week of the school term. Some families feel they need to isolate as a family unit prior to the Christmas period, which will therefore enable them to see family members over Christmas, particularly those who may be vulnerable. I understand that parents are concerned that if their child's class bubble were to be sent home next week, it may mean self-isolating over Christmas, possibly including Christmas Day.

Therefore, as a school we understand and support your decision to prioritise the safety of your family should you need to do so. With this in mind, if you do wish to self-isolate or have older secondary school pupils at home, and are considering keeping your child(ren) off school for the final week, **we will authorise** this absence under the Covid isolation code.

If you do choose to do this, please notify school via email or SeeSaw so that teachers are aware of class numbers for next week. It may also mean that alternative arrangements are put in place next week for you to collect any Christmas crafts, cards and Christmas/Secret Shop items. Please note, school work/remote learning **will not** be set next week for families '*choosing*' to isolate as the teachers will have other commitments in class.

After taking time to digest this letter and think about your current situation, we would be grateful if you could complete this short form stating your intentions for next week:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Ug4_TzS3ZEGUCRtgHRR5k2i5Aj7qc99FiXdrln3nOfhUNUM3UkRNM0dZQklwNFdYT0lwT1IOREJOSC4u

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this year – it has certainly been a tough one! I wish each and every one of you a wonderful, peaceful Christmas, spent with your loved ones, and a healthy and happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

Mr. B. Griffiths

Headteacher