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Growing & Learning Together through Faith, Friends and Fun

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Friday 11th December 2020

Last Week of Term - UPDATE

Dear Parents/Guardians

Further to our letter issued yesterday, and our brief message sent out last night, I would like to make you aware of the developments within Wales. All members of the Education Community are concerned about the rise in cases of Covid and the potential impact on the Christmas period. Several Local Authorities have therefore advised their primary schools to move towards **remote/distance learning on Thursday and Friday** next week. Last night, after an emergency meeting between the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, Flintshire Local Authority advised that Flintshire schools do the same, ceasing face-to face learning on **Wednesday 16th December**. Wednesday will therefore be the last day of term in school.

This will allow children to isolate from their peers and school staff for a short period before the Christmas holiday. I feel that this is a sensible precaution, allowing families to get together over the Christmas period, and will hopefully not cause too much disruption for you. During Thursday and Friday, you will be able to access distance learning activities for your child in the usual way, via SeeSaw, Google Classroom or Hwb. Please be aware that, given the time of year, many craft activities would have taken place and the class activities may have been quite different, which may also be reflected in the work prepared.

However, should you decide to keep your child/ren at home next week, or from Tuesday 15th December, following on from our Party Day, then I fully understand and will consider this absence as an authorised one. Please make sure that you have informed the school via SeeSaw, email or the online form.

This has been a week of ever-changing messages from the authorities, and for this, I apologise and empathise with your frustration. However, as a parent myself, I feel that this is a good compromise, something that we can do to protect everyone – our pupils and our staff! Children will not miss too much face-to-face teaching, they will have a safe no-contact period and it will minimise the need for childcare.

We are committed to providing the best provision under increasingly difficult circumstances and that must include keeping your child/ren safe. All of the efforts of staff: maintaining social distance, organisation around bubbles, re-organising provision, wiping down surfaces regularly, instilling good hygiene routines, being a calm and guiding voice for children who have struggled through this period, have all helped to keep our children safe. I sincerely want to thank everyone involved from the bottom of my heart.

I apologise for any inconvenience caused but sincerely hope that you have been given sufficient time to arrange childcare for Thursday and Friday. This decision is in the best and safest interests of children, families and the school community. I want my staff and our families to be able to spend time with loved ones over the Christmas period without being worried about self-isolation. I would like your continued support with this decision but if you have exhausted all other options for child care, please contact me directly by midday on Monday 14th December.

I hope you can feel reassured and that you will all manage to enjoy a safe and peaceful Christmas and we all look forward to an improving situation in the new year.

With thanks and appreciation of your understanding.

Yours sincerely

Mr. B. Griffiths
Headteacher