

9th December 2020

Dear Parent /Carer,

I open this letter by firstly thanking you for your strength of spirit and ongoing support. I also appreciate your understanding and acceptance of our schools' amended routines and operating structures across WeST in the pursuit of staying open and keeping our staff and children safe.

Our children have exhibited resilience and adaptability, as have our staff, as they have readily adjusted to our new ways of doing things and I am pleased to inform you that our children's overall attendance across WeST's primary and secondary schools is above both national and regional averages. Despite the inevitable interruptions to school life, our children have engaged positively with their learning and are making progress with their acquisition of new knowledge and skills.

We can now turn our attention to the Christmas break and seasonal festivities. Yesterday afternoon, Tuesday 8th December, schools nationally received strong guidance from the Government to turn Friday 18th December into a non-pupil day for staff training. There are two benefits of this government advice. The first is that it eliminates the risk of spreading any infection that day in school. Secondly, it reduces the risk of children having to self-isolate over the days leading up to Christmas Day.

I am therefore confirming the Trust's decision that all WeST schools will implement a staff training day on Friday 18th December. Thursday 17th December will therefore be the last school day of the Autumn Term for all our children.

The start of the Spring Term in January 2021 is unaffected and will commence as previously published.

I close by wishing you a safe, peaceful and happy Christmas break.

Best wishes,



Rob Haring
CEO – Westcountry Schools Trust.

STRONGER TOGETHER... EVERY CHILD IN A GREAT SCHOOL