



Ivy Lane School

Ivy Lane, Chippenham,
Wiltshire, SN15 1HE.
www.ivylane.wilts.sch.uk
Telephone: (01249) 652556
Email: admin@ivylane.wilts.sch.uk

Head of School: Mrs Helen Lammin (BSc Hons QTS)

9th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Friday 18th December

You may have seen in the media that the Department for Education (DfE) informed schools yesterday afternoon, that 'schools may wish to use an INSET day, making Friday 18th December a non-teaching day and using the day for staff training, which could be delivered online.' Contrary to what is being presented in the media about 'tired and stressed staff being given the day off', this is not the case - staff would need to attend a full day of remote training on the last day of term. The DfE's main objective here is to try and reduce the burden, by one day, on school leaders who will need to remain contactable so they can assist with any contact tracing that is required during the holidays, in the run up to Christmas.

As you can appreciate, this has come at very short notice for schools and would have a direct knock-on effect for our school community and working parents. I can, therefore, confirm that Ivy Lane, along with the vast majority of Chippenham and all Pickwick Academy Trust Primary Schools, have decided to remain open to all our children and staff. We would not be able to organise effective staff training at such short notice, and understand the added strain this would put on our families with regards to finding alternative childcare arrangements.

As communicated through our newsletters, we will be monitoring the CovidReporting@ivylane.wilts.sch.uk email over the holidays and will update Public Health and families should the track and trace system need to be used.

We are hoping that by keeping the school open, we cause the least disruption to the school community as possible and use our remaining two planned TD days more effectively for teacher development. I will of course update you further should these plans change and the Government change their stance on their guidance.

The Ivy Lane team will continue to do all we can for our children in the lead up to the Christmas holidays ensuring they enjoy their festive celebrations, and I will make sure the fantastic staff are provided with treats to keep us all going!

Yours sincerely

Mrs H Lammin
Head of School

