



8th December 2020

Dear Parents,

You will have seen some rumours within the media over the past weeks about school's closing early before Christmas. As things stand, Merthyr Council has no plans to close schools early. The last date for our children will be Friday 18th December 2020.

I understand why closing schools a week earlier and providing home learning for the last week could be beneficial in some ways. You will be aware that should any child or member of staff test positive to COVID, then all the staff and children who have been close contacts to that person will need to self-isolate for 14 days. This could significantly impact on what families are able to do over the Christmas period, including Christmas Day.

In order to minimise the potential of such an issue arising, I will again emphasise the need for parents and carers to follow all COVID protocols and advice. If your child or anyone in the household or extended bubble is displaying any of the 3 prescribed symptoms (new continuous cough, a high temperature, loss of taste and/or smell) then please, **DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD INTO SCHOOL**. Instead you will need to arrange for them to have a COVID test.

We will of course continue to follow guidance strictly in school over the coming fortnight to minimise the risks.

Should you as a family decide not to send your child into school we respect your decision but kindly ask you to inform us.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

R Francis

Headteacher