



# COVID-19 Coronavirus

## Closure on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

After much thought and consideration, we will be following the latest Government advice from the Department for Education and we will be having an INSET day next Friday (in place of the June INSET previously planned). Unfortunately, we are in the position of reacting to the advice given by the Government at short notice. However, whilst we appreciate it is short notice and may be difficult for working parents, we do think it is the right thing to do for the whole of our school community. As you are aware at High Ham, we have followed the government guidance closely since the very beginning of the pandemic and feel that this has helped us to remain fully open. By altering an INSET day this will allow families six days for bubble tracing before the start of family festivities on 24/12. The children will not miss out on a teaching day, nor will the staff have an extra day off. Instead the INSET days are just being altered - the school year remains the same for staff and pupils.

NB: The Pre-School as well as Huish Episcopi Academy are also closing at the end of the day on Thursday for the same reasons.

Thank you for your understanding as well as for your support during this term. We have all coped with an enormous amount of change and demonstrated great resilience. High Ham is certainly a school community which we can all be jointly proud of.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their hard work and flexibility this term. They have coped with enormous pressure, reduced breaks and non-contact time and a complete change in the way they teach and communicate. A special thank you as well, to Mrs Edwards and Mrs Stewart for helping to cover the face-to-face aspects of my role. As I am CEV, as advised, I am splitting my day between working from home/at school according to what I have planned. I am really looking forward to seeing the Christmas bubble presentations next week as well as the films tonight. It has been a joy to see how much more independent the children are now as they come into school.

The way our whole school community including parents, children and governors has pulled together has been wonderful. It has been lovely to see all the fantastic activities the PTA have enthusiastically organised in a Covid friendly way. Next week we have lots to look forward to with the Christmas Presentations, an online live panto (complete with popcorn) organised by the PTA as well as a sack of gifts for each class on our last day (fingers crossed the man in the red suit has got the message about our change of INSET!)

14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Autumn Topic Hand in Day on GC	Christmas Bubble Celebrations O, C and E (see note)	PTA Christmas Festive Fun (pre-booked) and Christmas jumper day	Christmas party day and Christmas clothing themed day	INSET Day		Christmas Christingle Celebration for those that signed up
Christmas Bubble Celebrations W,M and A (see note)		PTA Christmas baubles will come home today				

Mrs Rosser