



St Joseph's R.C. Primary School
Coast Road, Blackhall, Hartlepool, TS27 4HE
Tel/Fax: 0191 586 4308
Head Teacher: Mrs L Ashton
Chair of Governors: Mr P Francis



11th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

END OF TERM DATE CHANGE TO 17th DECEMBER

Following the recent announcement from the DfE regarding end of term arrangements, we have made the decision to close the school a day earlier than planned. We will now break up for Christmas on **Thursday 17th December and NOT Friday 18th December**. Children are to be picked up at the end of the school day at their usual finishing time.

As you may know schools and their staff have very much been part of the national track and trace effort. Public Health England have told us that we must continue in this role for six days after school closes for the holidays. This means that school staff would have been contact tracing and informing families right up to and including the 24th December.

The DfE advised schools, this week, that they could change their term dates by moving their planned staff training days around within the year. After careful consideration, we have changed one of our planned training days from Monday 12th April 2021 to Friday 18th December 2020. In re arranging our training days, it allows the six days to finish on December 23rd and not Christmas Eve.

An updated school calendar will be sent out in the new year which will inform you that children will return to school after the Easter break on Monday 12th April and not Tuesday 13th as previously stated.

Whilst we appreciate the late notice of this change, we hope you can understand the reasons behind the decision following the DfE announcement.

After such an incredibly difficult year, we are all very much hoping for a safe and happy Christmas with our families.

Thank you once again for all your support,

Mrs L Ashton
Headteacher

Respect, friendship, excellence, care