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9th December 2020

Early closure – Thursday, 17th December 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Government advises schools can break for Christmas on Thursday, 17th December 2020.

Schools can break up a day early at the end of this term, so staff can have a proper break from identifying possible coronavirus cases (through track and trace) over Christmas, the Government has just announced.

The **last day at school will now be Thursday, 17 December**. Our usual collection times will apply on this day.

This decision allows us to have the last Friday of term as an Inset day, which then gives teachers a clear six-day break.

Teaching and learning staff, as key workers, have been under extra-ordinary pressure since last March as the pandemic began.

The Minister, Nick Gibb, said: "We want there to be a clear six days so that by the time we reach Christmas Eve staff can have a proper break without having to engage in the track and trace issues with the NHS."

We are sorry that we were not able to give more notice of this change but all schools were waiting for the Government to make its decision.

Interventions on Thursday will not be on, so please collect your child at their normal pick up time. Thursday will also be Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner day for the children.

Kind Regards,

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Nicky Ross Headteacher Woodpecker Hall and Cuckoo Hall Academy **CHAT** Leader of Primary Education