9th December 2020

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

         **Reminder last day for Christmas cards Thu 10 Dec**

You will have seen that the DfE have given schools an option to close to children on Thursday 17 December and move one of their INSET days from later in the year to Friday 18 Dec. Contrary to some media reports this has not been done to give teachers a break because they are stressed but to allow school leaders to “switch off” from having to be available to assist with contact tracing right up until Christmas Eve.

**After discussion with school staff I have decided that we will remain open to children on Friday 18 December and keep our existing INSET days as already shared with you; I trust you will agree this is best for your childcare arrangements.**

**We will NOT however be offering Darwin’s Den after school provision on Friday 18 December. This is so that there is an absolutely measurable start time for contract tracing.  I appreciate this will inconvenience a few families but it is best in order to be able to manage any possible track and trace scenario.**

**School will close for the Christmas break on Friday 18 December at**

         **1.40pm Rec, Y1 & Y2**

         **1.50pm Y3 & Y4**

         **2.00pm Y5 & Y6**

**If your child develops symptoms or goes for a test before 2:10pm on Sunday 20th December, please make sure you contact me via the dedicated email address covid@charlesdarwin.cheshire.sch.uk  or mobile number (07922949835).**

**After this time, children will not have come into contact with one another for 48 hours so school is no longer needed for track and trace.**

I will monitor the email and phone for 6 days (until 24 Dec as directed by PHE and the DfE) and take any necessary action but it is the 48 hour window after school closes which is most important.

If anyone in your household tests positive during the holiday, please also email as this may have relevance to starting back.

Many thanks for your continuing support.

Best wishes

Adam Croft