

New Siblands Primary
Gillingstool
Thornbury
South Gloucestershire
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DfE School Number 803/7031
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New Siblands School
"Achievement, Belonging, Celebration"

Valuing every child through fostering independence,
inclusion, trust, respect and support

Headteacher: Ms Carrie Osmond

New Siblands Secondary
Easton Hill Road
Thornbury
South Gloucestershire
BS35 2JU
Tel. 01454 862888

15th December 2020

Re: Friday 18th December

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wrote to you last week regarding the government's suggestion that schools may want to close their sites and do a remote INSET day or remote home learning day on Friday 18th.

New Siblands has decided to stay open in order to maintain routines for our pupils. However, existing high levels of staff absence will be increased further on Friday because some staff are affected school closures for their own children.

Our COVID safe cover plan means that we cannot use agency staff to cover absence, and we have exhausted our internal bank of supply staff on this date. Therefore, regrettably, we will have to close some classes where safe staffing levels cannot be achieved in a COVID safe manner. This is in accordance with Enable Trust's business continuity plan.

The classes affected are Orange and Violet. Pupils in these classes will be given some learning activities they can do at home on this day. Please note, Santa is due to visit on Thursday, so they will not miss out on any planned Christmas activities.

Should levels of staff absence increase for other classes, further closures may be necessary and you will be informed at the earliest opportunity.

Apologies for this extraordinary disruption to our school operations. I hope that this is a rare occurrence and that we can keep all classes open in the New Year. Please note, that there is an INSET day on Monday 4th January, and pupils return to school on Tuesday 5th.

Should you need to report a positive COVID test at any time during the school holiday, please ensure your household self-isolates, and email ey-schoolscovidincidents@southglos.gov.uk.

I wish you all a safe and happy holiday.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Carrie Osmond'.