



**COLESHILL C of E**  
**PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
AND **NURSERY**

Inspiring our children to flourish and enjoy *'Life in all its fullness'*  
(John 10:10)

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Mr M Edwards  
Headteacher

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure you are aware by now of the Department for Education's announcement late on Tuesday afternoon. The announcement included the following;

*"To ensure that staff get the time off they need and deserve, schools may wish to use an INSET day, making Friday 18 December a non-teaching day and using the day for staff training, which could be delivered online."*

This may appear a generous offer to schools however;

- It completely disregards the inconvenience to our working parents (many of whom have already suffered disruption due to self-isolation and bubble closures)
- It contradicts last week's government legislative change which made it illegal for any school or Trust to close early for Christmas which led to my assurances in last week's newsletter that school will stay open until the 18<sup>th</sup> December
- It dismisses the strategic planning within a school by assuming that carefully planned INSET days can be moved adhoc at moment's notice
- It devalues the importance and precious nature of our limited training days by reducing one to aid a political gesture

The current situation is not a surprise and was not unforeseeable. Had the DfE given genuine consideration to the wellbeing of their teaching staff, an additional INSET day could have been agreed several weeks ago so that a) schools could use it productively and b) parents were given appropriate notice to find child care solutions.

Therefore, along with the majority of our neighbouring schools in Coleshill, **we will not** be using an INSET day to make Friday 18<sup>th</sup> a non-teaching day and will continue to support our parents by remaining open as previously stated in last week's newsletter.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Matthew Edwards  
Headteacher

