21 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

School INSET Day – Friday 29 January

I hope that you and your families are well, and that you are coping with the additional pressures of having your children learning at home. We are constantly seeking ways to ensure that pupils can be as independent as possible in their work and/or that there is plenty of involvement from their teacher. I know that this is a huge step forward from the first lockdown from the feedback you have been sharing, but we will continue to maximise this approach wherever we can.

I am writing to remind you that Friday 29 January is an INSET Day across all of our schools as has been in the calendar since the start of the year. As you know, schools are usually completely closed to pupils on INSET Days but, given the circumstances we find ourselves in at the moment, we will offer key worker provision (only) if it is absolutely necessary in our primary schools. Please could I ask you to inform your child’s school if this is required for 29 January in order to help with planning.

Further to this, please note that there will be no live lessons or specific work set for this day, as staff will be involved in the training activities during the day. Thank you for your understanding with this.

I was hopeful that we might have been in a position to confirm whether there were any different arrangements over half term in February by this stage, but the Department for Education has not released any information on this yet. Therefore, we are working on the assumption that, as normal, schools will be completely closed to all pupils over the half term week (Monday 15 – Friday 19 February). If there is any change to this, we will let you know as soon as we are informed.

With best wishes

Neil Lockyer
Chief Executive Officer