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SUNNYMEDE JUNIOR SCHOOL

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10th December 2020

Dear Sunnymede Junior School Parents and Carers,

It is likely that you have seen in the local press, calls for all Basildon schools to be closed for the last week of the term due to high levels of Covid cases in the area. Following a meeting this morning between Basildon Primary Headteachers and Essex LA, we will be following the recommendations for Primary Schools to remain open where they can. We are fortunate that at this time both the Infant and Junior schools have the capacity to remain open, with no current cases amongst our pupils and, therefore, expect all children to attend next week. We are aware that a different recommendation has been made for Secondary Schools in a separate meeting due to particular issues in the 10-19 age group.

You may have also seen in the national press that schools have been given the option of taking the 18th December as an additional INSET day and finishing the term on Thursday 17th December. After meeting with representatives from the Local Authority, Public Health England and discussing this news with our own staff and Chairs of Governors, we will not be taking up this offer at the Sunnymede Schools as we feel it is too late notice.

Schools will continue to be required to support Track and Trace during the first 6 days of the school Christmas closure period and further information will be sent separately to ensure you know how to do this for each school. It is likely that we may also have cases reported between Christmas and 3rd January and we, along with many other schools, are therefore planning a remote learning day on 4th January. This will allow school leaders to plan strategically for this, gathering information so that we can ensure sufficient staffing levels and that no children return to school who should be in self-isolation. This approach has been suggested and endorsed by the Local Authority.

To summarise:

- **Sunnymede Infant and Junior Schools to remain open up to and including Friday 18th December**
- **Monday 4th January will be a remote learning day for all pupils (details will be sent from each individual school as to how pupils can access learning at home)**
- **Children will return to school on Tuesday 5th January**

On Monday 4th January, pupils should complete the online activities for their year group, which will be posted on the usual year group website pages, as has been the case previously and in line with our Remote Learning Policy. Teachers will be available on the year group email throughout the day for you to email with any queries about tasks and to upload children's work for the teachers to respond

to. Teachers may also make a call to some families to see how children are getting on with their learning.

We all sincerely hope that no additional cases need to be reported during the Christmas period and remain thankful that positive cases within the Sunnymede school communities remain very low at the moment compared to current rates across the Basildon area. We thank you all for following our guidance and keeping our school safe throughout these difficult times.

As I said yesterday, I would send you some dates to ensure that the children have a little bit of fun next week, given such a challenging term. Now a decision has been made by the Local Authority about opening / closing for Basildon schools next week, I am in a position to send you those dates and will do so this evening or first thing in the morning.

Finally, don't forget Christmas jumper day tomorrow; there is a prize for the most innovative jumper in each class!

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Branch', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mrs R. Branch
Headteacher