



ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VA) FIRST SCHOOL

"Together we will give our children
the roots to grow, and the wings to fly"

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Headteacher: Mrs Claire Marsland

24th January 2022

Notification of half day school closure on Friday afternoon, 28th January

Due to significant staff absences due to Covid this week, the Headteacher and Governing Body have taken the decision to close school and move to remote learning for half a day on the afternoon of Friday 28th January. We do not take this decision lightly and have consulted with Somerset County Council before taking the decision.

By planning a closure, the school intends to allocate all staff their statutory planning, preparation and assessment time at the same time on Friday afternoon. This will give us more flexibility for staff redeployment to cover absences over the rest of the week and also the opportunity to undertake a one off deep clean of all teaching areas. Of course, we will continue to assess our staffing levels on a daily basis and communicate with parents as soon as possible if we have to put in place further closures.

As children usually have buzz time and Headteacher's awards on a Friday, we feel that closing on Friday afternoon represents the least disruption possible to their learning. We also feel that this is less disruptive to parents and carers than closing different groups on different days, which was our only other viable option.

Learning activities for Friday afternoon will be uploaded to Seesaw during this week.

Collection arrangements on Friday

Please make arrangements for your child to be collected from their usual collection point at the times given below:

Reception: 12.45pm Years 1 and 3: 12.55pm Years 2 and 4: 1.00pm

Any payments made for Twilight club or multisports will be carried over to future bookings.

We fully understand that any school closure will be inconvenient for many, but we hope that giving some notice will allow you to make alternative childcare arrangements. We are sorry, but we cannot remain open for any children on Friday afternoon as we will not have staff available to supervise them.

Please be assured that we are making maximum use of available supply teachers and redeploying staff where we can.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Yours faithfully,

Claire Marsland and Claire Levene Plumb
Headteacher and Chair of the Governors



At St John's CE VA First School the health, safety and wellbeing of every child is our top priority. We expect all staff, governors, parent/carers and visitors to share this commitment to safeguarding our pupils.