



20th November 2020

Dear Parent(s) / Carer(s),

First and foremost, I hope that everyone and their families are well and managing the most recent lockdown period successfully. As you know, our circumstances at school are constantly changing at the moment as we guide the Bayside ship through uncertain waters and I would like to update you to a change that we now need to make.

Currently we have a large number of staff absent which has placed us in a situation where we are finding it increasingly challenging to manage the day to day running of the school effectively. We are therefore, in line with previous communication, reducing our school week until further notice to 4 and a half days, with children leaving on Friday at the times stated at the bottom of this letter **from Friday 27th November**. We will, of course, return to a full timetable when staffing and circumstances allow.

Please understand that this decision has not been taken lightly and has been the result of detailed discussion between myself, governorship and Ambitions Trust leadership. Closing at lunchtime on Friday will allow us to:

- Keep all classes open
- Limit adults that work within each bubble, minimising risk of infection
- Maintain additional support for all children
- Allow for deeper cleaning on a Friday afternoon
- Minimise the impact of any staff member self-isolating
- Maintain hot school meals for pupils

I have spoken to several other Headteachers in the area who have adopted this approach and found it to be successful in maintaining provision in their schools.

Please note that attendance on Friday morning is obligatory – normal absence procedures will apply. Lunches will also be provided as usual on Fridays.

Your child's teacher will send you details of topic learning activities that should be completed on Friday afternoon and then be handed in on Monday morning. This will follow the same principles as the home learning sent last year, where the children can select activities from a selection provided to them in line with their topic learning.

With warmest wishes as always,

Mr Vernon
Principal

| | Drop off time | Pick up time Monday - Thursday | Pick up time Friday |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1SW 2MA 4KH 5TE | 8:30 | 3:15 | 1:00 |
| 2LW 3NT 5JW | 8:35 | 3:20 | 1:05 |
| RRL 3HC 6RM | 8:40 | 3:25 | 1:10 |
| RAD 6BC | 8:45 | 3:30 | 1:15 |

Bayside Academy

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