

# Rowlands Gill Primary School

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10<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

## Media Reports of Early School Closure

You may have heard in the news recently that the DfE have announced that schools can decide to close earlier than planned this term by moving a training day to Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> December and closing at the end of the day on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**We will not be closing early. We will finish for the Autumn term on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, at home time, as previously planned.**

The reason the DfE have suggested this change is because Headteachers are 'on-call' as a track and trace facility working with public health in case any children or staff become positive cases from the day the school closes until Christmas Eve. If this were to be the case, Headteachers would have to contact all parents of children involved and 'close the bubble' and explain the rules of self-isolation for the child. The DfE have realized that it is far from ideal to have Headteachers on call right up to the end of Christmas Eve and so have suggested early closure to enable Headteachers to be off duty from the end of Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December instead. I am not prepared to inconvenience you all by making this change.

I will be sending out more information over the next few days about how the 'track and trace' will work for the Christmas holidays.

If you have any queries at all, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mrs L Clarke  
Headteacher