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Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware the Government has advised schools to use an INSET day on the final day of this term, Friday 18th December.

The Government acknowledges the exceptionally late notice of this decision. Education leaders have been pressing the government to allow schools to close a day early for a number of months over concerns related to schools' participation in the track and trace system. The government refused to do so until the afternoon of the 9th of December. As a consequence of this change in government policy, **AVESC will not be open for pupils on Friday the 18th of December.**

Track and Trace

Whenever a pupil or staff member tests positive, the school must be informed. We then have a duty to track every person they could have come into contact with for the week prior to the positive test and work with Public Health England to determine the next steps. This includes notifying those people who may have come into contact in school and instructing them to isolate. It works slightly different in schools to the track and trace system used elsewhere; schools are allowed to operate with large numbers of children in each bubble with the condition that if anyone tests positive, everyone in that bubble isolates, even if the chances of close contact are low.

Schools must continue to do this for one week after the last day of attendance; each day of the holidays we need to be available to receive messages throughout the day to see if there are any

positive tests. If we are notified of a positive test, we will contact everyone in that bubble and inform them that they must isolate for a given period of time. By closing schools on Thursday the 17th of December, this means that there is no risk that you will receive a message from school on Christmas Eve telling your child to isolate.

Once again we thank you for your support during these difficult times.

T England
Headteacher