

Our Ref LF/CR
Your Ref

Please ask for Caran Richardson
Direct Dial 01467 533305
Email caran.richardson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Laurence Findlay
Education & Children's Services
Woodhill House
Westburn Road
Aberdeen
AB16 5GB
Tel: 01467 537438

8 December 2020

laurence.findlay@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

You will probably by now have heard that the decision has been taken nationally not to make any changes to the planned Christmas and new year holiday dates. As such, schools in Aberdeenshire will finish for the holidays as planned on Friday 18th December and the new term will commence on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

The Public Health advice that has been received is to keep schools open as planned as the controlled school environment is more preferable to social mixing outside of school if schools are closed early. Public Health advice is, on balance, that there would be less transmission of COVID-19 through children and young people being in school than mixing out of school. Adding this to the issues around vulnerable children and the need for childcare for key worker children, public health advice is to not change term dates at either end.

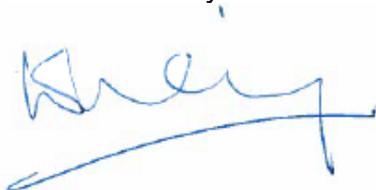
Some parents have been in touch asking if there is local discretion in the decision. However, the advice is very clear and the expectation is that schools will remain open for face-to-face learning and teaching and any school closures or shift to blended learning would be based on local Public Health advice, as is the case at present.

As a local authority we will look at ways in which we can provide the required support available to Public Health for contact tracing over the period of the Christmas holidays whilst schools are on holiday.

Whilst we have all recently been delighted to hear the positive news around potential vaccines, we must continue to remain vigilant as we live with the virus over the months ahead. We must continue adhering to the FACTS guidance and I would ask all parents and carers to continue reinforcing the key public health messages with your children.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for the support you have given our schools throughout this most challenging of years, it is greatly appreciated. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you, your families and friends all the very best for the festive season.

Yours sincerely



Laurence Findlay
Director of Education & Children's Services