

2 December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you that the Academy is taking the extremely difficult decision to close for two days on Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 December 2019. I apologise for the short notice we have provided but this closure will take place to allow us to undertake a deep clean of the entire school building due to an outbreak of the winter vomiting bug.

You will have read in the local press that there have been a number of schools across Bradford, and nationally, that have had to close due to the winter vomiting bug. We in school have been trying to contain an outbreak of the bug for the last couple of weeks and recently wrote to parents of Primary children, who had been particularly affected by the bug, to advise that this was the case. We had largely been able to keep the bug to manageable numbers, which has been thanks to our cleaning team focusing on classrooms and areas of the building where the bug has been most prevalent. Our cleaning staff have also been disinfecting every item in the building and using disinfectant cleaner during the course of their normal cleaning, as opposed to other surface cleaners that are used more routinely.

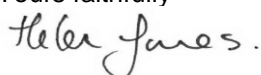
Unfortunately, at the end of last week and the start of this week, the bug has accelerated and overtaken our efforts to stay on top of it. We have had large numbers of children and staff either absent from school or having to be sent home as a result of showing symptoms. There has been a particular spike today in the numbers of staff and children who have been reported as suffering from the bug and it is clear that, despite our best efforts, we have not been able to stop it being passed around children and staff.

It is for this reason that we have made the decision to close the school. I appreciate that this will cause inconvenience to many of you and I am extremely sorry that this is the case. I am also aware that we recently launched attendance challenges that will now be overshadowed by the closure of the school. However, we feel we have very little choice other than to take this action if we are to give ourselves the best chance of stopping the bug spreading further and causing more of our children and staff to become unwell.

The intention is that the Academy will re-open as normal on Thursday 5 December 2019 and our staff and cleaning team will be working hard during Tuesday and Wednesday to ensure that the deep clean is completed and that we are able to get back to normal school business on Thursday. We will continue to keep parents informed via the usual channels including text, the website, our twitter and Facebook pages, and Bradford Schools Online. We will also contact parents again to inform you of how we will re-launch the attendance challenges, which will recommence on Thursday. There will also be a number of initiatives in place when students return to school. We will also contact Year 9 parents about plans to rearrange the parents' evening that was due to have taken place this week but will now be cancelled.

Please, once again, accept my sincere apologies for the inconvenience this extraordinary decision to close the school may cause you. I can assure you we have not taken the decision lightly and that a lot of work has gone on in recent weeks to try and avoid reaching this point. Sadly, this has not proven to be successful.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heber Jones".

Ms H Jones
Executive Headteacher