

# HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Headteacher:**  
Corina Foster



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Tuesday, 18 December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

## REF: FORCED EARLY CLOSURE

I am writing to inform you that we have to close at the end of today, due to ongoing issues with our heating system. We now only have one functioning boiler, instead of 2, and it is struggling to keep going and not managing to heat most of the school. Engineers have confirmed that they believe it is likely to fail within the next 24 hours, leaving us with no heating at all. They have also informed us that one of the 2 water heaters is also failing and will need to be shut down. Our system is very old and none of it is repairable, so this presents significant problems.

We will have engineers on site over the next few days and throughout the Christmas break to help find a solution. This will leave us with no heating or hot water at all. It may also involve shutting off power at times and it will not be possible to function as a school while this is going on.

The year 8 trip to Cadbury World will go ahead tomorrow, so morning taxis continue for year 8 pupils only. All other end of term activities will be cancelled, including the Concert on Thursday. This will be postponed until 15<sup>th</sup> January next year.

We say goodbye to Helen Dormer today, wishing her well as she pursues new career plans. I am delighted to welcome Jack Hugo (DT and Learning Leader for Year 10), Marie Austin (Subject Leader for Art) and Kerri McLay (Learning Leader for the Creative Curriculum) who all join us in January. Maxine Dale, our new receptionist, has now joined the team and is already well known and liked by our pupils and many of you.

Thank you for your wonderful support for the school. Your sons and daughters are amazing young people and they make every day unique and exciting. I am sorry that we have had to end the term so abruptly and I hope you will understand that we have not made this decision lightly.

Myself and many of my staff will still be in school until Friday and will be available via email. The telephone system requires power, so may be less predictable.

I hope you are able to enjoy some lovely time together over the break and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year. Please look at our website for a little gift from the staff at The Valley School and for updates about heating and hot water.

Happy Christmas

Corina Foster  
Headteacher

