



5<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **General Election – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

At The Firs we always make every effort to keep the school open although, unfortunately this will not be possible for the General Election announced recently and we are going to have **to close the school to children on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December**, so that the school can be used as a Polling Station.

Our school and Russell Lower are currently used as Polling Stations, and both will close to the children on this day.

As a school, we have managed to stay open for the recent European Election, as there was a much lower predicted turn-out of voters and Central Bedfordshire provided security. As the turn-out is expected to be very much higher for the General Election, we feel that the risk to the children's safety is too great and as a result, we have taken the reluctant decision to close. Although the school is closed to the children, the staff will still be working on this day.

Please accept my apologies for the inconvenience caused to you and the children. Both Nicki Walker (Headteacher of Russell Lower School) and I, intend to petition to the Local Authority to request that they find an alternative venue as a Polling Station in the future, as we feel having to close a school is unacceptable, and far too disruptive to our children's education.

As I said above, we are very sorry for the inconvenience and disruption this will cause, but I know that you will support our concern regarding the safety of the children.

As the school will be closed on 12<sup>th</sup> December, we have had to make some changes to the dates of the Christmas performances. The changes are as follows:-

- Y3 dress rehearsal will now be at 9.30am on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. The Y3 performance at 2.00pm take will remain at 2.00pm on the same day as already scheduled.
- Y2 dress rehearsal will take place on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am
- Y2 performance will take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm.

A revised date sheet is also attached to this letter and will also be available on our website.

Yours sincerely,

Adam J.G Campbell (Headteacher)

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