

Thursday 16th September 2021

Dear Families,

URGENT: Unplanned School Closure - Monday 4th October 2021

On Tuesday 13th September, we were advised of the impact of road closures associated with the Women's Tour International Road Cycling race which is visiting Banbury on Monday 4th October 2021. Unfortunately, the route that has been selected and the timing of the race means that between approximately 14:00 and 15:45 there will be unpredictable periods with no access for vehicles to Broughton Road and, therefore, no way of vehicles getting in or out of Frank Wise School.

This could impact the speed of access for emergency vehicles but, more significantly for the wider school community, it means that buses, taxis and families would not be able to arrive at school to collect pupils for the end of the school day. In addition, traffic will be being held on Woodgreen Avenue and Queensway at both times when the race passes through, which is likely to have a significant effect on the flow of traffic locally for unpredictable periods of time.

The negative impact of this on the ability of the school to operate safely and effectively for the pupils, families and staff, means that we feel we have no reasonable choice to make other than to **close the school on Monday 4th October**. This will ensure that we can offer pupils and families clarity and certainty, which we would not be able to do should we remain open.

If your child is scheduled to attend 'Let's Play' on that day, there will be no transport available, but your child will be able to access their session if you can transport them to 'Let's Play' yourselves.

To offset this loss of education, we have decided that we will use the additional Bank Holiday that has been allocated during the Summer half term week in celebration of the Queen's Platinum jubilee, and which schools have been advised should be taken at another point in the school year of their choosing.

Whilst having this additional day on Monday 4th October, in lieu of the Bank Holiday, is clearly not of the school's choosing, it is the best option available in the circumstances and at such short notice.

We recognise that for some of you this will cause significant disruption. Oxfordshire County Council will be raising this with the event organisers in order to ensure that this does not happen again.

Yours sincerely,



Heidi Dennison and Simon Knight