
23rd November 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

I am sure that, as we approach this stage in the school term, children and schools will be thinking ahead in relation to preparations for Christmas. As a parent and also a headteacher, I recall how special this time of the year was for children. I know that our schools are working hard to ensure that, following the year our children have experienced, that this lead into Christmas is one that is as special as it can be.

In preparing for Christmas, we are also aware of the significant increases in positive covid rates being experienced across the county at this current time. Our schools are working hard to balance the provision of as normal a school experience as possible for our children, whilst also reducing the risks of covid transmission. School leaders and governors have been successful in this to date and have been able to minimise the disruption caused when children have to be sent home. It is essential that we continue to reduce the risks. I am sure that no-one wishes to see a return to large numbers of children having to self-isolate, or schools having to close classes due to positive covid cases across their staff.

In order to reduce risks, I have asked our school leaders to consider how they manage the run up to Christmas and also to avoid large events where required when many people would usually be coming into the school. This does not mean cancelling Christmas preparations for children and indeed the nativity plays and the Christmas activities that children would usually engage with, should all continue. However, schools may not be able to invite parents and friends into the school to be a part of these events this year in the way that they would traditionally have been. Whilst this may be disappointing, and indeed it may vary between schools according to the level of risk, I do hope you can appreciate that our schools and their staff want to do the best for the children in their care and also to reduce any risk of accelerating transmission. No-one wants to see a return to the challenges of 2020 and we all need to work together to make sure that our children continue to have education face to face and this could be a very important measure to help achieve this in schools.

I do thank you for your understanding.

Yours sincerely

Paul Wagstaff
Director of Education & Skills