



3rd December 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

I am writing to you today to inform you of the plans over the next few weeks. At school, we have been working hard with Public Health guidance to try and ensure that the children are still provided with every experience possible. Up until today, we were moving ahead with plans to re-schedule the KS1 Nativity performance to the final week and plans were underway for the Lowry trip next week with additional health and safety measures in place to reduce risk.

However, today it appears our plans have had to be reviewed which means that in order to protect the community I have had to take further guidance from Public Health. Christmas is an important time for families to be together and this is especially true after the last 18 months. We have had to consider the impact and risk to families, children and staff over the Christmas period.

Today, unfortunately, I have received notification of further positive cases and we also have further staff absences. This means that the Lowry trip to see Stick Man has had to be postponed. Thankfully, we have managed to re-schedule the Lowry trip to the **7th January** so the children do not miss out on this experience. In the final week of school, all the children will watch a virtual pantomime, "Cinderella", with some Christmassy treats which I am sure they will enjoy.

Year 1 and 2 Nativity Performance

As many of you will already know, the children have been unable to sing in school due to the COVID outbreak which has been significant across all years. Children in Year 2 are only able to start singing again next Thursday which has in itself added pressure to the Infant Nativity production. Staff have used creative ways to develop children's knowledge of the songs using actions and it is hoped that when children can sing again next week that this will support them in remembering the lyrics. The staff have gone all out to try and ensure that the children get the opportunity to perform in some shape or form.

For those of you who know me well, you will know how much I value providing the children with opportunities to perform to a live audience and how much the performances in school mean to us all. Therefore, the decision to cancel the live Infant Nativity performance is not one that has been easy and there have been numerous discussions with staff, governors and Public Health. I know that this will be disappointing for many of you and the children will have a recorded nativity performance which will be shared with you. Quite simply, I cannot ensure the safety of the school community whilst we have still had positive cases in Year 1 and 2 and there is a significant risk of further cases occurring. This could result in families, children and staff needing to isolate over the Christmas period, **including Christmas Day.**



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In addition to this, I would also be going against the guidance I have been given. Children will need to have their nativity costumes in school for the start of next week and the Infant Nativity will be professionally filmed on Tuesday 14th December 2021 and shared with parents as soon as possible after this date.

Reception Nativity Performance

At this moment, as there have been no positive cases in Reception for a period of 14 days, it is possible that this performance on **Thursday 9th December** may be able to go ahead as scheduled with enhanced restrictions. This will include limited attendance to 2 people per child (no younger siblings please), all parents taking an LFT prior to the performance and bringing proof of an official email and the expectation that parents will wear a mask at all times throughout the performance. However, should positive cases or further concerns arise in the coming days, this performance may also have to be cancelled and recorded. Please ensure that your child has their costume in school on Monday for the rehearsals.

Christmas Activities

The children have enjoyed Christmas activity day and it has been lovely to see them having some festive fun this afternoon with their teachers. The school is awash with glitter and the classrooms are ready for the festivities. Over the next week, the children will be completing their PTFA Christmas Craft challenge and making a decoration which can be paid for on Parent Pay.

PTFA Raffle

Raffle tickets have been sent home with your child for the PTFA Christmas Raffle. Thank you for all your donations today. If you require further tickets, please contact the office. The draw will take place on Friday 10th December.

Christmas Dinner Day

Christmas dinner day is on **Thursday 16th December** and children may wear Christmas jumpers on this day.

The Christmas parties are as below and children may come to school in party clothes on this day. Children will need sensible shoes and must be dressed appropriately for the weather. We are asking for a donation of £1 to purchase prizes for party games - this should be brought into the class teachers by **Friday 10th December**.

Dates for Christmas Parties/Events

Monday 13th December – Year 3 and Year 4

Wednesday 15th December- Year 5 and 6

Thursday 16th December – EYFS/Y1/Y2 parties and Santa visit

Friday 17th December- Christmas film.

Final Note

I would like to thank you all for your continued support over this half term. We have had many challenges to overcome yet again but as usual the Britannia Community spirit continues to shine through adversity.

One day, I hope normality will resume and that you will once again all be back in our hall celebrating together but for now my hope is to ensure that everyone stays well and safe for the Christmas period.

Yours sincerely

Natalie Longstaff

