



November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have 22 school days until the last day of term, so we thought we would share with you our plans to celebrate Christmas with you and your children.

During the week beginning Monday 15th December there will be class parties, a visit from Father Christmas, a virtual Christingle service and small festive assemblies, so that the children and staff can have some lovely Christmas fun together.

Our Reception pupils will be performing their nativity, and this will be filmed so that they can share this at home with their families. **Sadly, we are not able to have face-to-face celebrations with you in person, and this year will not be inviting you in to school.** We know that some of you will find this decision disappointing, while some of you will find this decision reassuring. It is one of those tricky decisions.

We have always tried to be as open and honest with you about the decisions we make regarding coronavirus. These are the reasons we have continued to be cautious with everyone's health this Christmas:

1. From 1st November 2021, Cambridge and Peterborough moved into an "Enhanced Response Area" (ERA) due to the rising rate of infections, particularly in our older population.
2. This increase, coupled with low vaccination rates in some parts of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough means pressure is building on our local health services. This is exacerbated by increased levels of Covid infections in the general population, and staff being unable to work because they are infected or isolating. If unchecked, this will also affect health care for other non-Covid needs. Therefore, the public health advice for school gatherings being held during the ERA status is as follows:
 - a) That we use the NHS Covid Pass system as per Government guidance for events.
 - b) Face coverings to be worn by anyone over the age of 11 years unless exempt, indoors and in crowded areas outside, on public transport (including for any transport arranged for attendees e.g. coaches, taxis, and/or car sharing).
 - c) The event is set up to enable social distancing.
 - d) If any attendee shows Covid symptoms, they should not attend.
 - e) **Staff and attendees** should carry out lateral flow testing prior to the event **and for 4 - 5 days** after the event.
 - f) The **use of the NHS QR code** to help trace and stop the spread of Covid-19.
 - g) Regular and frequent cleaning of high frequency touch points.
 - h) The promotion of regular hand washing and the provision of hand sanitisers at all events.
 - i) Keeping Covid-safe arrangements for any food and drink offered during the event.

Continued....



Park Lane Primary & Nursery School

Executive Head: Rob Litten

Deputy Executive Head: Rachel Bains

3. We conducted a risk assessment for a traditional nativity performance (using the recommended risk assessment proforma) and all of the above Public Health recommendations would have to be met as they have been '**strongly recommended**', and as a school we feel that we are unable to fulfil all of these recommendations as well as we would like.
4. The outcome of a Health and Safety Executive ventilation risk assessment for the school hall was poor as '**whilst there is some fresh/clean air ventilation it is not ideal for minimising the air transmission risk in the space**'.
5. Most importantly of all we want everyone to have a **happy and safe** Christmas with their families, rather than self-isolating and unable to see loved ones. We all deserve this after last year's lockdown Christmas.

We hope you are not too disappointed and do understand why we feel we should support Public Health England and local NHS Services. We want to do our bit to keep you, your children and your family as safe and as well as possible.

Take Care,

Mr Rob Litten
Executive Headteacher