



LARKS HILL

J & I SCHOOL

Larks Hill J & I School
Larks Hill
Pontefract
West Yorkshire
WF8 4RJ
T: 01977 722845
W: larkshill.patrust.org.uk
E: admin@larkshill.patrust.org.uk

30th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well. Following recent announcements made by the Government, I am sure you will be eager to find out the final arrangements for the upcoming Christmas events that we have planned, as per our recently published December Diary 2021.

Christmas events and Nativity performances are some of our most cherished school traditions. As I am sure you will agree, we were all very disappointed that they had to be cancelled last year.

We are aware that you may have heard of several schools that are cancelling their Christmas Nativities. As a Trust, we have taken the decision not to cancel ours. Instead, we plan to allow them to proceed with some mitigating safety measures in place. The children work so hard in their preparation for their Nativity performances and the staff are so proud to showcase all their endeavours. With this in mind, we are going to go ahead with this year's event, with some additional controls in place.

It is of such importance to us that our communities are kept safe and are not being put at unnecessary risk before the festive season. The mitigating controls we are putting in place are as follows.

All attendees at each Nativity performance must wear a face covering at all times – unless you are exempt for medical reasons. This is due to our Nativity performance being held in a communal area and a confined space - School Hall.

Please could you perform a rapid lateral flow test the day before the Nativity performance, so as to ensure that you are not testing positive for Covid. This is vitally important, as you will be mixing with people you may not normally come into contact with. If you were to test positive, you should isolate immediately and perform a PCR test.

If you are suffering from symptoms of Covid, please do not attend the planned event and arrange a PCR test as per the Governments guidance.

In addition, the school will ensure that the venue for each Nativity is well ventilated and that hand sanitiser is available on entry. If you cannot attend for any reason, or feel that you would be safer at home, we intend to stream the Nativity performance live for you. Further details regarding access arrangements for live screening will be sent in due course.

With community safety in mind, we have however taken the decision not to allow families into the school building for the Christmas Fair on Friday 10th December. We strongly believe that doing so would put families, staff and children at unnecessary risk due to the nature of the activities that we have planned. We are aware that you may be disappointed by this, but after very careful consideration we feel this is the correct decision, in the best interests of keeping you all safe. We will still go ahead with the Christmas Fair in school with the children, so the hard work the children and staff have put into preparing for this day will not go to waste and they are still able to enjoy this annual experience. The children will be available for collection from school at the normal time of 3:15pm.

I am sure you will understand and appreciate the basis of our decisions. We will be striving to ensure it as normal as possible in school for the children and we will ensure they receive the best possible experience in the run up to their well-earned festive break.

Thank you once again.
Yours faithfully,

Ian Shuttleworth
Headteacher

