



HALFPENNY LANE

J, I & N SCHOOL

30th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am sure you will be eager to find out the arrangements for the upcoming Christmas events that we have planned as part of final term before the festive season.

Christmas and nativity plays are one of our most cherished school traditions. Like you, we were very disappointed that last year they had to be cancelled.

We know you may have heard of several schools that are cancelling their Christmas nativity. We have taken the Trust wide decision to not cancel ours, and instead allow them to proceed with some mitigating safety measures in place. The children work so hard in their preparation for the nativity, and staff are so proud to showcase their endeavours, that we are going to go ahead with this year's event with some mitigating 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 must wear a face covering at all times during the performance – unless you are exempt for medical reasons. This is because our nativity is in a communal area with an enclosed space.
- Can you please take a rapid lateral flow test the day before the nativity event to ensure that you are not positive for Covid. This is important as you will be mixing with people you may not normally meet. If your test is positive you should isolate immediately and [get a PCR test](#).
- If you are suffering from symptoms of Covid please do not attend the event and arrange a PCR test as per the Governments guidance.

In addition, the school will ensure that the venue for the 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 are going to attempt to stream the nativity live for you and make a recording. 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 to not allow families in school for the Christmas Fayres or our planned awards evening. We strongly believe that these events would put families, staff and children at unnecessary risk due to the nature of the activities that we have planned. I know you will be disappointed by this but after very careful consideration we know this is the right thing to do to keep you all safe. We will communicate with you the new arrangements for the Fayres so the hard work the children and staff have put into preparing for them will not go to waste.

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I am sure you will understand both our decisions and support us in this joyous season. We are making it as normal as possible in school for the children and will ensure they get the best possible experience in the run up to their festive break.

Thank you once again,

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. McNeill', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs H. McNeill
Headteacher