

23 November 2021

Dear Families,

I write to you as we approach the festive period across our primary academies. We are in very different times this year and as a result I am sure that you can appreciate that the activities and events that your child would normally experience during this period will have to be somewhat different.

Our academies are currently operating within the restrictions set out by the government and as a result some events that we have come to associate with schools during this time are simply not possible; others require significant adaptation. An example of this will be Christmas productions and wider public events - unfortunately these will not be able to take place this year as we are unable to allow large public gatherings. I appreciate that this may be disappointing - I know how much I look forward to my own children's performances - but I am also sure that you appreciate and understand the position that we find ourselves in this unique year.

I want to give you every assurance however that your child's experience of the season will be special. Our staff teams are working hard to adapt and invent new ways of working to ensure that this is so. From class parties to Christmas post boxes and everything in between they are determined to ensure that our children have experiences that they will remember - albeit that those from 2020 will be different.

I want to acknowledge the work of our school teams in ensuring this. Times are difficult at the moment with leadership teams and teachers operating new ways of working to keep schools open and safe. Managing both online and physical classrooms as well as working with new routines and policies is challenging but our staff have been absolutely committed to getting the right support to our children and their families.

Our leaders have had to make difficult decisions over how Christmas and the festive season will operate within their academies. Some of these decisions will be disappointing and may even be unpopular. They have, however, made these decisions with the best intentions and within the context of the current restrictions. As they communicate plans to you, I would ask that you are aware of this and whilst you may wish to offer feedback to the school, please do so in the spirit of kindness and understanding - we are all working in difficult and unprecedented times and we are all doing what we think is the right thing.

Over the next few weeks, I guarantee that children and staff will experience fun, laughter and special times - creating memories that they will cherish. This will be 'different to normal' but I am sure you will agree that that very phrase is an appropriate summary of 2020.

I wish you and your family all the very best.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Lee Wilson

Chief Executive Principal Primary