



Temple Mill Primary School

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs L. Lewis

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2nd December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Central Theatre Pantomime Cancellation

In light of increased COVID-19 cases at Temple Mill and in the wider community, we are having to make some difficult compromises. The UK Health Security Agency have advised that although the Department for Education will not be issuing any additional guidance relating to school Christmas events, schools should consider a range of measures to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.

Having considered the current national and local guidance, and reviewing our school Risk Assessments and seeking further information about their COVID plan and the specific arrangements for our school from the theatre, we have decided that it would not be appropriate to take the children to the pantomime at the Central Theatre this year. This is due to the fact that the audience will be made up of large numbers of children and adults from a range of different schools in a full theatre with no spacing between schools. This means we will all be in a confined space for a significant amount of time. Although this was true at the time of booking, the rise in cases and the advent of the new Omicron variation have given us cause to reconsider. Of course, our main concern is that all of our school community stay well but we also have the added concern that a positive case or being identified as a close contact of an Omicron case would mean a period of self-isolation regardless of vaccination status. This would be a great shame and could also have health implications for other family members.

We will be issuing full refunds to all of you who have made a financial contribution to this event so that no family will be left out of pocket. We appreciate that this will be a huge disappointment for the children and we are very sorry for that. The teachers will now start planning with the children some fun alternative activities in school for the morning of the 10th December to ensure that they still have a memorable day and as a start, would like to invite the children to wear their own clothes for the day.

Other Christmas Events:

- Nursery and Reception Nativity (Tues 14th and Thurs 16th Decmeber) **as things stand**, will still go ahead as planned.
- Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity (Mon 13th and Weds 15th December) **as things stand** will still go ahead as planned.

We are able to still offer these events in school as we will restrict numbers and seating to help keep us all safe. Entry is by ticket only (maximum 2 per child) please do not share or swap tickets. If you are attending:

- ✓ Bring your ticket
- ✓ Consider taking a Lateral Flow Test before arriving
- ✓ Ensure you are free of COVID symptoms
- ✓ Use the hand sanitiser on entering
- ✓ Wear a face covering at all times - unless you have a medical exemption

✓ Maintain social distancing as much as possible, seating will be arranged to support this.

Please be aware that if the situation changes, we may need to apply further restrictions or cancel the performances to parents at short notice.

KS2 Concert: Unfortunately, parents will not be able to attend this event. Instead it will be filmed and made available to you via a secure page on our website

You will of course be aware that other schools may be doing things differently but also that each school has a unique set of circumstances that impacts on any decision. Thank you once again for your support and understanding of the difficult decisions we have had to make to ensure the safety of both children and adults in our school community.

Best wishes



Mrs L Lewis
Executive Headteacher (Primary)

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Mr D Bignell
Co-Head of School

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