



29<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**Update from the CEO**

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that this letter finds you and your family safe and well? I am writing to advise you that Public Health Doncaster have recently updated their guidance to schools. We have been informed that the number of cases in Doncaster communities continue to cause concern and although there has been a reduction in the number of positive cases overall, many schools have seen a rise in cases.

There is an increasing number of outbreaks in schools affecting both pupils and staff which in some schools has presented staffing issues due to absence. The number of Doncaster residents being treated in hospital for COVID remains persistently high.

Due to this latest guidance, schools have been asked to be mindful of the need to balance the overall wellbeing of children and also how they can reduce opportunities for transmission of the virus within school settings when planning Christmas activities and events.

As you are aware large gatherings indoors for events such as concerts will increase the transmission risks, due to close proximity in enclosed spaces for an extended period of time, therefore all academies have risk assessed all Christmas activities and events to reduce the risk of transmission.

Taking this information into account, we have taken the decision to hold our Christmas concerts as a virtual event. I know you may be disappointed with this decision but I wanted to reassure you that this will still be an exciting event for our pupils whilst also ensuring that our communities remain as safe as possible with the up and coming Christmas holiday period looming: We don't want you all to be in in isolation for this very special time! I do hope that you understand this.

Some academies will have other planned events such as visits, which will be risk assessed to ensure that the risk of transmission is kept to the minimum.



I have asked academies to provide you with a brief overview of their Christmas events (please see below). Further details will follow via your academy.

Christmas Planned Events for: *Sheep Dip Lane Academy*

Event	Plans for how the event will take place
<i>Christmas Phase Concerts EYFS 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021 KS1 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021 LKS2 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021 UKS2 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021</i>	<i>Held virtually and uploaded to Tapestry – EYFS FS1 and FS2 Held virtually and uploaded to Seesaw – KS1 Y1 and Y2 Held virtually and uploaded to Seesaw – KS1 Y3, Y3/4 and Y4/5 Held virtually and uploaded to Seesaw – KS1 Y5 and 6</i>
<i>Carol Singing in the Community</i>	<i>Tesco Hatfield Y5 and 6 carol group: 15.12.21 9.30-11.30 Hatfield House Care Home live stream singing of traditional songs for residents Y1 and Y2 13.12.21 9.30-10.30</i>
<i>Christmas Parties</i>	<i>Held within schools in year groups: EYFS FS1-10.12.21 (Croft) EYFS FS2 – 14.12.21 KS1 Y1 and Y2 – 13.12.21 LKS2 Y3, Y3/4 &amp; Y4/5 – 15.12.21 UKS2 Y5 and Y6 – 16.12.21</i>
<i>Santa visits classes</i>	<i>Virtually with gifts whole academy 14.12.21</i>
<i>Autumn Fayre Christmas Dinner Day</i>	<i>Cancelled this year however hoping to hold a Summer Fayre in 2022 16.12.21</i>

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank parents and carers for your continued support during this time; I hope that you will understand that the decision we have taken is to ensure that we minimise the risk to our families, friends, colleagues and our communities.

Yours sincerely

*B.A. Nixon*

Beryce Nixon  
CEO  
National Leader of Education

