



SAUNCEY WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL



Head Teacher: Mr S Lloyd

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Thursday, 9th December 2021

COVID Update from Sauncey Wood

Dear Parents and Carers

General Update and Pantomime Information

I am writing to you to give you a comprehensive update regarding the run in for the end of term and all the things that are and can be affected by COVID. We continue to aim to minimise the risk and keep all of our children and staff as safe as we can.

As soon as we make one decision, we then have to retract it with the next one. I can only say that we have tried our absolute best to make this time of year as fun and festive as we can. I am sorry to say that we have decided to cancel our pantomime trip this year.

After speaking with the Alban Arena, I did not feel it right and fair on our children that they would all have to wear face masks for the duration of the show. This was about having fun as safely as we could, but having primary aged children wear a mask for such a long period of time does not sit well with me.

Seeing the Country move to 'Plan B' yesterday also has led me to make a decision based on a risk that I can no longer manage this trip as safely as I would have liked to. I have to put the safety of our children and families first.

We have also seen a number of the team who have expressed their worries about the trip regarding the emergence of the latest variant and because of the Government's recent move to 'Plan B'. We value our team and their thoughts highly and would not want to put them at any greater risk than they already are in school. Based on these significant changes, and the other information detailed above, the decision has been made to cancel the trip.

School Staff

Two members of our school team, a Teacher and a TA, have tested positive for COVID-19. This reduces the number of staff that we have in school and to support on the trip. The year groups have been informed.

Year 6 Tea Dance

Because of one of the Teachers testing positive for COVID late yesterday, we have no choice now but to postpone the Tea Dance for the Year 6 children and their parents. I have already spoken to the children and explained to them what we are hoping to do in the new term. I am sorry for the short notice; this decision was not taken lightly.



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Nativity

We will continue on our current path with Nativity and this year's show will be recorded in school and shared on our YouTube page. We also have a photographer coming in to take some exciting photos of the event and we will share these with parents as soon as we have them back. We are doing our very best to capture this performance as many ways as we can, as I know many of you remain disappointed that you are unable to attend. I share that disappointment too.

COVID Safety at School and Children Displaying Symptoms

Should you be at all concerned that your child might have contracted COVID-19, please arrange a PCR test for them and do not bring them to school until you have had a negative test result.

Please note Young people in Year 3 and above who are household contacts of a suspected positive case, but are exempt from isolation (as above), are strongly encouraged to take a daily lateral flow test (LFT) for 7 days and should only attend school if their lateral flow test is negative. They should start testing from the start of symptoms.

Key symptoms:-

- A new continuous cough and/or
- High temperature and/or
- A loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

Additional symptoms that may be early warning signs of COVID-19 in children include:-

- upset stomach
- headache
- sore throat and;
- unusual fatigue.

I would ask that if you are concerned at any time about the symptoms your child may be displaying that you err on the side of caution and keep your child at home.



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Other Christmas Events

We are aiming to keep all other events in place as per the term run in information that was sent out late November. We want the journey to the end of term to be as festive and as fun as possible. Here is what we still have to come:-

1. **Wednesday, 15th December** - Christmas Jumper day/ Christmas dinner day - children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper in return for a £1 donation to Save the Children.
2. **Thursday, 16th December** - Virtual and fully interactive pantomime at school. We will be showing an exclusive pantomime to all children in their classrooms through the power of technology and electronic communication!
3. **Friday, 17th December** - Christmas film night 3.15 p.m. - 5.30 p.m. This will be done in class bubbles.
4. **Monday, 20th December** - Christmas Parties - no food or changes of clothing please. A chance to celebrate the end of a very busy term.
5. **Monday, 20th December** - Class stalls to sell homemade crafts - gifts made by the children will be available to buy - all money goes to the school. 3.20 p.m. - 3.45 p.m. in KS1 and KS2 playgrounds - please maintain social distancing and wear a mask.
6. **Tuesday, 21st December** - Carols around the Tree via Zoom (link to follow) - each year group will sing, this terms Governor Awards and Rainbow hamper winners drawn. 9.15 a.m. start!

This term has been challenging for us all and very much remains that way, as I am sure it will until the end of this year. We will do our very best to ensure that the above activities can take place but please do remember that things can change in an instant and we will make decisions based on the key priority of minimising the risk to our children and the school community. If we need to cancel any of the above, we will let you know as soon as we can.

I am sorry for the recent amount of communication and in particular the length of this letter. I want to thank you for your continued support as we try to navigate this extremely difficult and challenging time.

We have to continue to work together to get to the festive break as safely as we can and your support is so greatly appreciated and integral to making this happen.

Stay safe.

With kindest regards

Mr Lloyd
Headteacher



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