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**ENHANCED COVID MEASURES OVER CHRISTMAS AND CHRISTMAS IN SCHOOL**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Yesterday, the Director of Children's Services for Stockton asked schools to take some additional measures at the current time.

These measures are to protect the community in Stockton. There is a spike nationally and locally and we are now into the winter months where the impact of COVID on the NHS could be overwhelming.

I have consulted with other local Head Teachers to try and ensure we match provision in other local schools. This means that I’ve concluded that, sadly, we will be taking the following measures for the foreseeable future in order to protect the local community:

We can have no unnecessary mass gatherings on site and need to try and limit numbers of people on our site for the time being.

* Christmas events will be virtual again I’m afraid. The children will prepare Christmas songs and perform them online for you to see.
* We will not be able to hold our usual end of term showcases for parents this term – any that have been announced are now cancelled.
* The FOBS meeting scheduled for Monday will have to be a virtual meeting.
* Toddler Group will need to be suspended for the time being.
* Please try to limit the number of adults bringing children onto the site to one adult wherever possible. And where children are in Y5 and Y6 try to encourage walking, scooting or cycling to school.
* If you wish to speak to members of staff, wherever possible, these meetings will be held on the phone or online.

School business will carry on as normal. School remains as safe as possible an environment for the children and staff with our current Risk Assessment in place. But with the current spike in cases nationally and the winter months placing added pressure on the NHS, Stockton Council are, rightly, looking at ways to protect the community and to ensure happy family Christmases for everyone.

A reminder that if there was a spike in cases within the school. I would discuss these with the NHS COVID outbreak team and they would instruct me if any additional measures needed to be put in place within school.

CHRISTMAS IN SCHOOL

Otherwise, we will give the children as rich a Christmas experience as possible:

Children can exchange cards and the post box will run as normal.

Christmas Jumper Day will be on the 10th December and there will be a Christmas Raffle

Year group Christmas Parties will take place as normal – dates will be announced by class teachers.

There will be special Christmas Assemblies in each Key Stage on Monday 13th December.

A visiting pantomime will be here for Key Stage One. Key Stage Two children will go to Stockton Riverside College for a show PROVIDED we can get a safe, one school only booking.

Trees and decorations will go up as usual.

We will share as much of this with parents as we can on Facebook, Twitter and our School Website.

Thanks so much for your understanding. I really do hope we will be able to share all these special events in person again as soon as possible. However, I do think that where we can limit the risk of COVID to the community and preserve the chance of families being healthy and together over Christmas, we should do that.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Squire