



ACKLAM WHIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

“Always a chance for everyone!”

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am very sorry to inform you all that we are going to have **to cancel our Christmas Fayre and audiences at our Christmas productions**, this year. Since our return from half term, the Covid case numbers of children and staff have been increasing to a concerning level and we have had 12 children and 5 staff PCR test positive. This has led us to the decision that we do not feel we should hold public events that bring additional people into our school, at this time. My priority is to keep our children, staff and families safe and bringing us all together when we know we have children and adults across school unwell with Covid is not the responsible thing to do. Caring about one another and keeping each other safe is the right thing to do.

We love our community events and so wanted to all be able to come together at the Christmas Fayre and watch our amazing children perform together as we know how much we have all missed them during this extended period of disruption and change. We also cannot thank you enough for your cooperation and support. But we also know Mark Adams, Director of Public Health South Tees and Rob Brown, Director of Education and Partnerships, have informed schools that they are closely monitoring the data around Covid infections and have expressed concerns that the increase in rates among our primary age children will lead to higher levels of infection among older, more vulnerable adults. We are seeing multiple cases of Covid among people living in the same household showing how easy the infection can spread to other family members.

We have reviewed our Covid-19 risk assessment again and would like to share these measures with you.

- 1. Reducing infection brought into the school setting by more rigorous identification and testing of contacts and more frequent testing**

Close Contacts (including household contacts)

We encourage anyone identified as a close contact to undertake a PCR test and if the test is negative to return to school and continue to carry out daily lateral flow testing for 7 days, only attending school if the test result is negative. To follow national guidance for all contacts and access a PCR test at [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-infection)

- 2. To continue to ensure windows are open in the classroom to facilitate good ventilation.**
- 3. To continue to ensure good hygiene for everyone.**
- 4. To continue to maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.**
- 5. To limit visitors to the school and consider carefully whether events that bring parents into the school can be managed safely or should return to online.**

Please know that we still plan to very much celebrate Christmas here at Acklam Whin and make sure it is truly memorable for our children. We may not be able to have a Christmas Fayre for the whole community, but we still plan to have many festivities for our amazing children. On the 25th November we will still have our Christmas Grotto, where for £2, our EYFS and KS1 children can ride on a magical Christmas train to see Santa, receive a gift and make a Christmas craft. Our KS2

children will also take part in Christmas crafts and all the children who would like to, will also be able to purchase slushies, cakes, sweets, decorations and biscuits. More details to follow. All the Christmas performances will be recorded and sent to you and all the family will be able to watch and celebrate their fantastic performances over and over again.

You have helped us by working together, throughout this pandemic to reduce the spread of infection and keep our community safe. We are in unison in our school priority this year, we want our children to remain in education, alongside their friends and to have the very best year they can.

We thank you so much for your continued support and we will look forward to being able to celebrate Christmas in many special ways here at Acklam Whin and a Christmas that we can share with our families.

Mrs Prince