



**INSPIRE NURTURE BELIEVE ACHIEVE**

*Working **together** to be the **best** that we can be.*

Happiness

Perserverance

Resilience

Kindness

Friendship

Respect

8.11.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: Adaptations to planned events in line with Local Authority Covid-19 guidelines**

Following the letter from Louise Wallace (Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire) and Stuart Carlton (Director of Children and Young People's Service) that was sent out last week, this letter is to explain some of the decisions we have had to make following discussions with the Public Health team.

Our aim to try and continue with as many of the planned activities as possible in line with the guidelines so that everything isn't cancelled and the children are able to access curriculum enrichment. We understand that some of this may feel contradictory but some of the explanations are below:

**Den Building** – this was able to go ahead / will be going ahead as it is outside and the provider will complete a Lateral Flow Test beforehand.

**Competitions at Harrogate High School** – these will be going ahead as they are outside and children on the school team are from one class. Adults organising the event are all participating in twice weekly Lateral Flow Tests. This will be assessed on a weekly basis with Sporting Influence based.

**Swimming** – this will continue as it is an essential part of the curriculum. Children are from one class and are not mixing with other schools. The instructors are doing twice weekly Lateral Flow Tests.

**Staff Training and CPD from specialist advisors** – these activities will go ahead as much as possible as they are essential parts of the strategic priorities for the federation. Each one will be discussed with the advisor at the time and include a Lateral Flow Test beforehand.

**Pantomime** – unfortunately this is not able to go ahead. This is because many schools, with a large number of children and adults will be mixing indoors. Children from the whole school would also be required to mix on the bus. It is not an essential curriculum activity. We had to make a decision with the PTFA in order to not lose people's money. Any money paid will be refunded in due course.

**Singing / Collective Worship** – at present we are having a break from mixing all together and singing. As cases within the locality and federation begin to fall, we will introduce singing again, initially in classes in order to learn / prepare for the Christmas Carol Service / Nativity. Nearer the time, we may feel that we are able to sing as a whole school – this type of decision will be made on a week by week basis.

**Christmas Performances** – these will be recorded and posted online (password protected). Children will record their parts separately. As numbers of cases reduce, hopefully they will be able to sing in their

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classrooms. This will prevent children needing to mix between all classes at once, inside, with 'visitors' (parents). The Church is also following guidelines regarding mixing indoors.

**Christmas Fair / Christmas Party** – again, this would require the whole school mixing so it cannot go ahead. We have already begun discussions with the PTFA about the way we can make sure the children have lots of magical Christmas fun in their classrooms. Watch this space!

These are hopefully short-term measures in order to safeguard the vulnerable staff members staff and keep as many children in school as possible. Without enough staff, there is a possibility that school would need to fully close for a period of time and revert to online learning. We know how difficult this is for our families so we are doing all that we can to minimise the likelihood of this occurring.

We hope that the measures in place now will also prevent a wider negative impact on our families and the wider community over the winter period and Christmas when groups of people are planning on being together.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Zoe Ellis

Federation Headteacher