



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Chapel
Street Ope
Devonport
Plymouth
PL1 4DJ

Tel/Fax: 01752 563185
E-Mail: st.josephs.rc.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk
www.st-josephs.plymouth.sch.uk

Tuesday 7th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with deep regret to inform you that we have made the difficult decision to 'cancel' all Christmas performances this year. This decision has been the most difficult. As a parent myself of two children in the school, I was desperate to see my own children perform so I share the disappointment you may well be experiencing, however I hope that you understand and trust that the decision has been made in the best interests of keeping our school family safe as we build up to Christmas.

As an alternative, I have asked staff to continue to rehearse their shows and we will film them. I want to put the performances on our school website for you to all enjoy. I am aware though that there are some of you who have not consented to your child being photographed or filmed. If you are one of these parents and would like to have your child filmed for this purpose, please let the office know. If we do not hear from you, we will ensure your child is not visible in any filming.

We are also now closing our doors for the rest of the term, encouraging parents to remain outside, to drop off and leave the school site. Christmas is upon us and no-one wants to catch Covid in the build-up or indeed over the holidays. We will also be putting in additional restrictions in school for the final eight days. These will include lunches in classrooms - including Christmas dinner next Thursday.

Currently, we have an outbreak. We have 12 children who have tested positive and more who are at home awaiting results. My advice is that if you or your child are feeling unwell, book yourself a PCR test. Children who are complaining of tummy aches but have no other symptoms are testing positive. It would be easy to dismiss illness as 'just a cold', but it is always best to be on the safe side. Advice also suggests that children under 11 should not take an LFT - if they are symptomatic, they should do a PCR.

Once again, my deepest apologies. We all wanted to share Christmas with parents coming in to enjoy the shows, but given the cases we are dealing with at St. Joseph's, it is my duty to put safety ahead of events.

Thank you all for your understanding, and as ever, for your continued support. The staff team have worked tirelessly. They too have a sense of anxiety about the current cases as well as wanting to enjoy the Christmas period without getting Covid. They will also be incredibly appreciative of your understanding.

With warm wishes,

Mark Dyson