



22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Stepping through 2021- 22 – Step 4 Moving Towards Christmas**

Following steps taken towards a return to more typical school life taken so far this term, we promised to write to you concerning final steps that we are keen to take ahead of the Christmas break. We are pleased to say that steps that we have taken so far have really made a difference to the experiences of children and families in school, with no notable increases of cases of COVID-19 in school to date. We are grateful to everyone who has engaged with these changes – we recognise that initially they will have felt unusual, difficult even, but everyone is benefitting from our steps towards more typical provision. With this in mind we plan to move forward with our hopes and plans which are detailed in this letter.

Be assured that should the landscape around COVID-19 in the community change at any point these plans, and any relaxation of restrictions will be reviewed. We will of course keep you in the picture if this is the case.

By now you may have seen on the newsletter our hopes and plans for Christmas celebrations which begin with Years 1-6 coming together for a pantomime on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November** and end with our 'Super Singing Around the Tree' event on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December**.

The **pantomime on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November** signals the start of the final changes towards more typical operation ahead of the Christmas break which will come into place from **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November**. The next steps that we plan to take from this date are detailed below. Before sharing these we would wish to assure you once again that alongside these steps, **our COVID-related approaches to the cleaning of the school, and engagement of children in maintaining personal hygiene through hand washing will continue**. These remain a critical part of our ongoing COVID response.

We are pleased to share with you that from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November:-

- **The hall will no longer be used as any eating space for children in Key Stage 2 – All children will use EAT to have their lunch** – A timetable has been arranged to allow this to happen in the same way as it did pre-COVID. This will typically see Key Stages largely eat separately with some overlap as children finish and begin their meals.
- **Children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) will share the playground during morning break-time** – Arrangements have been made for children to receive and eat snack separately to avoid queueing, following which they will join together on the playground. Children from Key Stage 1 will continue to take their morning break-time in the courtyard as we recognise the value in them using this space for this period of activity.
- **Friday mornings will see all children from Years 1-6 come together for Celebration Assembly in the hall** – while we do not see ourselves in a position to complete our return to our traditional end of the week assembly by inviting parents, we hope to do so in the new year should the landscape allow.

Following the successful return of parents joining us for Time to Think current arrangements will continue between now and Christmas. These differ from class to class and we would ask that you continue to speak to your child's class teacher or team members to keep in touch with arrangements.

As always, thank-you for your patience, support and understanding as we continue to take positive steps forward for your children and families. We remain committed to maintaining everyone's safety and comfort as we approach Christmas. While there are further steps to be taken in the future we hope that the details shared above enable children and parents alike to get a little more out of their time with us this term.

Yours sincerely,

Scott Hampton  
Co-Head Teacher

Katy Galling  
Co-Head Teacher

Robert Doets  
Chair of Governing Board