



Thames View Primary School
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Nativity/Carol Services and other Christmas events – December 2021

01.12.21

Dear Parents / Carers,

Thank you very much for your patience, whilst we have been considering the arrangements for our Christmas Nativity and Carol Concerts this year. As you can imagine we have had to make some difficult compromises in light of increased COVID-19 cases at Thames View, particularly in KS2.

The UK Health Security Agency have advised that although the Department for Education will not be issuing any additional guidance relating to school Christmas Events, and that where possible these can go ahead, schools should consider a range of measures to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.

You will of course be aware that every school has a unique set of circumstances that impacts on any decision, and we welcome your support and understanding that all decisions have been made in the best interests and safety of children, families and staff.

I appreciate many of you may be disappointed, but having considered the current National and local guidance, and reviewed our school Risk Assessments, **as things stand**, we will be offering the following:

Early Years

The **Nursery (Sparkles) and Reception classes (Pippin and Sunrise)** will be performing a short Nativity, **to be filmed** and made available for you to view via a secure page on our new website before Christmas. We regret that parents will not be invited to attend these events this year, but of course will have an opportunity to see their child perform live in a full Nativity, when they are in Years 1 and 2.

Key Stage One

KS1 classes (Elstar, Kanzi, Fortune and Liberty) will be performing their Nativity Story in the well-ventilated KS1 hall on Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th December.

We would like to invite **one** parent of children in:

Elstar class - to attend the **9.15am** (filmed) performance on Tuesday 14th Dec (*max 30 additional adults*).

Kanzi class - to attend the **2.30pm** performance on Tuesday 14th Dec (*max 31 additional adults*).

Fortune class - to attend the **9.15am** performance on Wednesday 15th Dec (*max 30 additional adults*).

Liberty class - to attend the **2.30pm** performance on Wednesday 15th Dec (*max 29 additional adults*).

Each child in KS1 will receive **one** named/dated/timed ticket to take home on Monday 13th December. We regret that we will be unable to offer any alternative to these dates/times, or accept any ticket swapping.

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KS1 parents attending the performances will be asked the following:

- a) **ONLY** attend if they have a ticket
- b) **ONLY** attend if they are free from any COVID-19 symptoms, however mild
- c) Consider taking a Lateral Flow Test before attending
- d) Wear a face covering
- e) Use hand sanitiser on entry
- f) Be physically spaced in the hall (seats will be arranged 2m apart)

Please be aware that if the situation changes with regards to increased numbers of positive COVID cases in KS1, at short notice, we may need to reconsider the attendance of parents.

The filmed Nativity will be made available for you to view via a secure page on our new website before Christmas.

Key Stage Two

KS2 children have been rehearsing their Carols and readings for services scheduled to take place at St. Margaret's Church next week. (*Lower KS2 – 7th Dec / Upper KS2 – 10th Dec*). However, due to the increased number of COVID cases in Y4, Y5 and Y6, we are sadly having to cancel these church events.

The children in their separate year groups will instead take a small part of the Carol Service to perform in the KS2 hall – to be filmed and made available for you to view via a secure page on our new website before Christmas. We regret that parents will not be invited to attend the KS2 Carol Services this year.

Whilst I understand that a video recording is not the same as seeing a live performance, we actually received some very positive feedback from parents last year, many of whom told us that it was good to be able to see their child on the stage without having their view obscured by another member of the audience sitting directly in front of them. In addition, this was a recorded memory to keep forever.

OTHER CHRISTMAS EVENTS

- ✓ PTA Christmas Jumper sale and ECO Warrior's Toy sale – KS2 playground Mon 6th Dec 3.20pm
- ✓ Santa Visits (potentially outdoors) - 8th / 9th / 10th Dec
- ✓ Christmas Jumper day – Fri 10th Dec
- ✓ Christmas Cards – Class/Year Group only – to be brought in by Fri 10th Dec (distribution on class party day)
- ✓ Class Parties – week beginning 13th Dec (Year group information re. packaged food donations by 10th Dec to follow)
- ✓ Christmas Lunch – Wed 15th Dec
- ✗ PTA Christmas Market – Wed 15th **CANCELLED**

Thank you once again for your support and understanding of the difficult decisions we have had to make to ensure the safety of both children and adults in our school community.

Kind regards

DL Daburn

Deanne Daburn
Head of School