

24th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to thank you for all that you have done to help prevent the spread of COVID 19 over the past few months. It has been a very difficult time again for our childcare and education settings and for those families who work or have children attending.

School leaders in Dudley are still working hard to manage COVID 19 cases within their school community in liaison with Dudley Council Public Health. A number of schools are still seeing a high number of cases amongst pupils and staff. With this in mind, we wanted to be clear on the local authority's advice around events as we enter the festive season.

Guidance has been given to schools around festive events and this makes it clear that there is no expectation that schools will be able to host the usual events in the usual way. Some events may need to be reviewed and schools will need to manage these in a COVID 19 secure way. This will largely depend on current COVID 19 rates in the school and local community and the situation could change at short notice in the event of an outbreak.

In light of this guidance, schools will be encouraged to review their risk assessment and decide how they are able to host festive celebrations for their individual school communities. We recognise that every school is unique and risk assessments, based on many factors, will differ from setting to setting. What may be possible in one school might not be feasible in another. The priority remains the safety of the school community.

Decisions will have to be made on a school-by-school basis and may involve a variety of measures. Some events may be held outdoors or held virtually. Where a school can safely host visitors, they will be asked to follow the protective measures in place for that school. Evidence of negative lateral flow tests may be required; schools may ask that visitors voluntarily wear face coverings and there is a possibility that numbers allowed to attend events may be limited.

We know that this may cause some disappointment if you are unable to attend events in the usual way, however, we want to keep you, your family and staff as safe as possible as we head into the holiday period. Your child's school will inform you of the arrangements they have put into place to ensure that this year's festive events can continue in a safe way.

Yours sincerely



Karen Wright
Director of Public Health and Wellbeing

