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Date: 16th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of another challenging school term has come but I didn't want it to end without saying a **HUGE** thank you for all your support, patience and encouragement throughout this year. I thought that this time last year, all COVID issues would be long behind us, how wrong I was! This term, has been particularly challenging, with a significant number of COVID cases on the main school site and at some of our satellite classes. Once again, you, with the staff team and governors have met all of the challenges face on. Our partnership working has again demonstrated what really makes the Trinity Fields Family so special and unique.

Christmas in school looks and feels different again this year; although we have beautifully decorated classrooms and Christmas trees throughout the school. I wish I could capture the smell of the Nordman Fir trees within this letter; Christmas is definitely in the air! Even though our Christmas lunch was again delivered in a box, at least we were able to enjoy a Christmas party and a virtual Christmas Fayre. I know that classes worked hard to make their items for selling and they were very pleased with their online sales!

This year we had an unexpected visit from Father Christmas who arrived in his sleigh. He gave every pupil a £20 Amazon gift voucher; these were kindly donated to us from a long-standing benefactor. It would be nice if you could send in some photographs showing what your child has bought with the voucher. I look forward to seeing the photographs!

January 2022

Today, Jeremy Miles Minister for Education and Welsh Language has announced that all schools across Wales will have 2 planning days at the start of the Spring Term that will be used to plan in light of Omicron. Our risk assessment will be based upon a "very high" risk level. We will also use this time to assess staffing capacity and put other in place to keep us all safe. This means that school will open to pupils on **Friday 7th January 2022.**

Based upon the information that we have received today from the Education and Welsh Language Minister additional measures will be re-introduced. These include:

- **Face coverings:** we will be encouraging all staff and pupils (in the relevant age groups and who are able) to wear face coverings; parents/carers coming onto the school site are also encouraged to wear face coverings, unless they are exempt.
- **Lateral Flow Testing:** it is the "strong expectation" of Welsh Government that all staff and secondary aged pupils test **THREE** times a week.



- **Changes to the school day:** The Education and Welsh Language Minister has also allowed schools to operate staggered start and finish times from the start of the Spring term. You probably won't see too much of a difference in the morning, other than the process taking longer to ensure social distancing is adhered to; however, in the afternoon we will begin to load pupils at **2.30pm** and NOT at the current 2.55pm.
- **Discussions with staff:** I know that some parents/carers who come to drop off and collect their children like to have conversations with staff; please keep this to an absolute minimum.
- **Pupils' attendance at school:** to keep everyone safe pupils should only attend school if they are well enough to do so. If you are concerned about your child's health then please continue to seek medical advice.

Even with all of these measures in place it might be necessary to close classes; please be assured that we will do all that we can to prioritise in-school learning; if however, this is not possible then your child's class team will move to remote learning. This is not the ending any of us wanted to what has been another very challenging term but hopefully better days are ahead of us.

On behalf of our Head Girl, Tegan and Head Boy, Garin, all pupils, governors and staff, I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very blessed and special Christmas with your loved ones and I really hope that 2022 will be far less challenging and healthier for us all!

Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda.

Keep safe and healthy,

Ian Elliott

**Ian Elliott MBE
Headteacher**

