



*Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Nursery*  
Headteacher Mrs Janet Mullally  
Windermere Road, Southend on Sea, Essex, SS1 2RF  
Phone: 01702 534546  
Email: [office@sacredheart.southend.sch.uk](mailto:office@sacredheart.southend.sch.uk)



2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Christmas Services - update**

You will know that we are due to hold a number of in-person Christmas Services in the coming weeks to celebrate the holy season of Christmas.

We are *very* much hoping to go ahead with our plans to host these special events in-person. However, following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK and the new temporary measures that were announced on Saturday, schools are required to consider specific criteria when making final decisions on whether an on-site event can go ahead in the coming weeks.

Schools are required to consider the *number* of positive cases within the school community (pupils and staff) in the days before each event when making the final decision on whether to go ahead. In short, if the number of cases within the school rise to above a particular level, on-site events will not be able to go ahead. Given the guidance, it may not be possible to give much advance notice of this.

We are closely monitoring the level of cases within the school on an on-going basis and we will endeavour to give as much notice as possible if our current plans need to change. We understand that a cancellation would cause much disappointment for all. The circumstances around this are outside of the school's control and we will be grateful of your understanding if this were to happen.

Please note that the school will be adhering with updated Public Health guidance on events in schools. Please note the expectations for attendees carefully:

- attendees are to wear a **face-covering**, unless exempt
- attendees are to **sanitise hands** on arrival
- attendees are encouraged to **maintain some distance**
- **no attendance of positive cases, symptomatic individuals, contacts of positive cases**
- we are strongly encouraging all **attendees to take an LFD test** within 48hrs before the event

Please note: these Public Health measures apply to events in the school and at Sacred Heart Church.

If it is not possible for our Christmas Services to go ahead in-person as planned, we will implement a contingency plan of virtual recordings in the final week of the term.

We do hope that we will be able to avoid any changes to our plans and any disappointment this may cause. In the meantime, thank you for your understanding and support during these uncertain times.

*Headteacher: Mrs Janet Mullally*  
Part of the Assisi Catholic Trust Ltd,  
Registered address: Kenilworth Gdns, Leigh on Sea, Essex SSO 0BW  
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Yours sincerely,

Mrs Janet Mullally  
Headteacher

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Southend-on-Sea