

Bawtry Mayflower Primary School
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8th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we near the end of the term, I would like to thank you for your understanding and support during what has been a difficult time for school and families alike.

We have worked hard in school to ensure that staff, children and the community are kept safe. While some of our decisions and requests may not have been popular with everyone, I am sure that you will agree that in managing to keep all classes open so far, our systems and routines have worked. This has ensured that children have been in school learning and parents have been able to go to work. We do recognise of course that there is an element of luck.

We are very sorry to hear that some parents are using Facebook to make some very unhelpful and derogatory comments about the school, our staff and our systems to mitigate the risks of Covid. We also find the use of abusive language highly inappropriate. Please see our Code of Conduct for Parents and our Social Media policy which can be found in the policies section of our website.

In following the DFE guidance, we have kept classrooms well ventilated by opening windows and doors. Despite the cold weather, this needs to continue although we will of course try to keep the rooms as warm as possible. We are currently awaiting updated advice from our Health and Safety advisor as to the safest way to do this.

We are aware that some comments have been made relating to gifts for staff. We do not teach children in order to receive gifts and nor do teachers expect this to happen. However, we are always grateful when parents and children show their appreciation through the giving of gifts and their lovely comments. I would ask those of you who have concerns over the appropriateness of giving gifts to maybe consider making a donation to a charity of your choice in lieu of gifts.

It may appear that we do not want to make Christmas as nice as possible for the children; however, we would like to point out that any positive test from the end of this week could result in a family having to self-isolate on Christmas Day. We do not want this to happen for any of our staff and families so, while some of you may feel we need to lighten up, we do not feel that this is the time to take unnecessary risks.

While Christmas is not the same in school this year, we have already planned to make the last week in school that little bit more festive for the children by arranging a special event.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Jenkinson (Executive Headteacher)

