



Update from Mr Mills Autumn 6

Dear Parents and Carers

We are approaching the halfway mark of Lockdown 2.0 as well as thinking carefully about arrangements for the weeks leading up to Christmas. For this reason there are one or two information items to share with you.

Social Distancing

I would like to start by thanking you for all your support in ensuring the school grounds remain as safe as we can make them before and after school. It is clear to see that you are maintaining appropriate distancing and not staying on the school site any longer than is absolutely necessary. I would ask that we pay particular attention at and around the school gates, giving way to pupils and adults entering the school grounds.

It is clear from the local data that there has been an increase in positive cases in recent weeks, in particular amongst secondary age students and staff in our local secondary schools. We must all do our part in following the guidelines and minimising the risk for our school community until the effects of the latest national lockdown start to materialise.

Families in Isolation

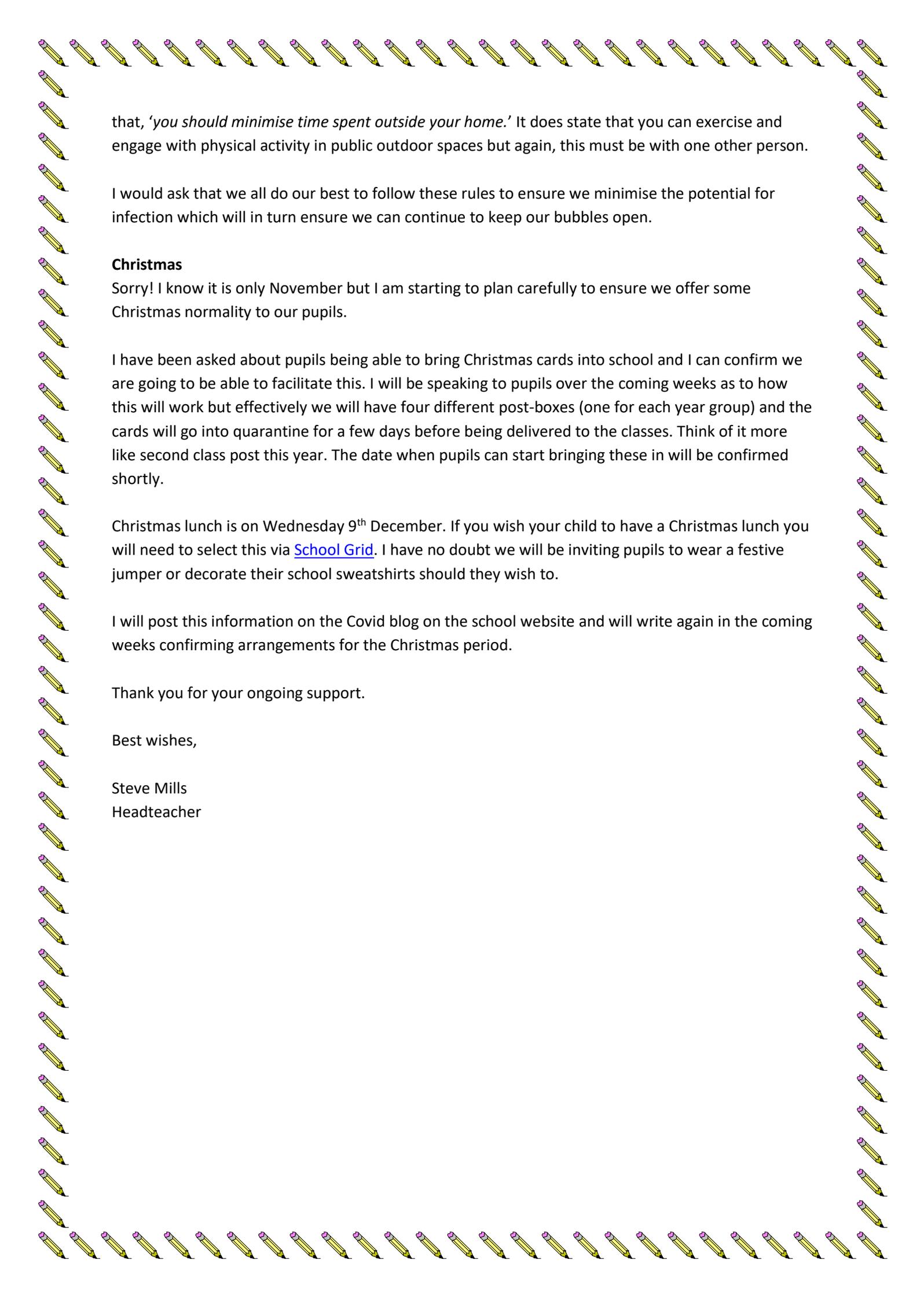
Again, thank you for following the rules with regards isolation and testing. At some point this term, all classes have had pupils joining lessons via Google Meet and our blended learning plan is working very well indeed. We recently took delivery of four new Chromebooks for use by pupils whose access to suitable technology might be limited, so that they can access the lessons when at home. Two are currently out in circulation, allowing pupils to continue to engage with their learning.

If you are asked to isolate through one of the official routes, please do not come into school. Should you need to liaise with the school office or your child's class teacher, please do so via phone or email and we will do our best to answer your questions in a timely manner. Our live lesson access will usually be up and running on the first day of isolation, depending upon the time we receive the notification but I would ask for your patience. In the interim, pupils could access TT Rockstars, REDIWRITER or a good book.

Meeting Others

There are elements of this current lockdown which are very different from the initial period of closures and therefore it is probably worth reminding ourselves of some of the guidance which has been published with particular reference to pupils meeting others out of school.

The [published guidance](#) which was updated on 14th November, makes it quite clear what we can do outside of the school day in terms of meeting others and applies to children as well as adults. It states that, '*you must not meet with another person socially or undertake any activities with another person. However, you can exercise or meet in a public, outdoors space with people you live with, your support bubble (or as part of a childcare bubble), or with **one** other person.*' It goes on to state



that, *'you should minimise time spent outside your home.'* It does state that you can exercise and engage with physical activity in public outdoor spaces but again, this must be with one other person.

I would ask that we all do our best to follow these rules to ensure we minimise the potential for infection which will in turn ensure we can continue to keep our bubbles open.

Christmas

Sorry! I know it is only November but I am starting to plan carefully to ensure we offer some Christmas normality to our pupils.

I have been asked about pupils being able to bring Christmas cards into school and I can confirm we are going to be able to facilitate this. I will be speaking to pupils over the coming weeks as to how this will work but effectively we will have four different post-boxes (one for each year group) and the cards will go into quarantine for a few days before being delivered to the classes. Think of it more like second class post this year. The date when pupils can start bringing these in will be confirmed shortly.

Christmas lunch is on Wednesday 9th December. If you wish your child to have a Christmas lunch you will need to select this via [School Grid](#). I have no doubt we will be inviting pupils to wear a festive jumper or decorate their school sweatshirts should they wish to.

I will post this information on the Covid blog on the school website and will write again in the coming weeks confirming arrangements for the Christmas period.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes,

Steve Mills
Headteacher