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Dear Parent or Carer

With Christmas fast approaching and concerns around Covid once again in the headlines, I wanted to let you know what the latest position is in Hull.

We have a high rate of covid infections currently, with about 1,200 people testing positive every week in the city. The rates of infections in school age children and young people are particularly high. We do not have any cases of the new variant, Omicron, at the moment but this could change quickly.

With this in mind, the public health team have advised schools to be extra careful in deciding whether to go ahead with Christmas plays and events for families this year. All schools have been asked to see if they can reduce the risk of transmission of illness. This will be different in every school based on things like the size, layout and buildings. If headteachers don't feel they can go ahead safely, and especially if they have cases of Covid in their school community, events may need to be postponed or held in a different way. Some schools may need to change their plans at the last minute if their situation changes. We hope that as many events as possible can still go ahead, but only where they won't increase the risk of leaving people poorly over Christmas.

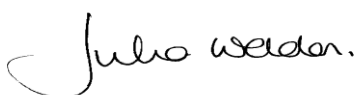
Please do continue to support your school community by:

- getting vaccinated if you aren't already
- staying at home and getting a PCR test if you have symptoms
- taking an LFT test before you socialise
- wearing a mask wherever it's crowded

It's really hard to get the balance right between keeping people safe from Covid and making sure our children can have the best school experience possible. I'm extremely proud of every one of our schools for navigating this so carefully every day.

Thank you very much for your support, and I wish you a healthy and happy Christmas.

Yours faithfully



Julia Weldon  
**Director of Public Health and Adult Social Care/Deputy Chief Executive**

