



Queen Eleanor's Church of England Junior School
An Academy in the Good Shepherd Trust*
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"A caring, supportive community, grounded in a Christian ethos, where children are inspired to explore their potential and develop skills for life."

Headteacher: Jo Davies

Thursday 17th December 2020

Dear Families,



Happy Christmas!

As we approach the end of the autumn term, I am writing to express my thanks for your continued support in all we do as a school. It has certainly been the most challenging of times for everyone and has required schools and families to change plans frequently in response to COVID-19 guidance and cases in school. This has not only been complex for us but, unavoidably, will have impacted on your own arrangements at short notice. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

I would like to recognise the work our staff have done throughout the pandemic and thank them all for their continued hard work and support. Many school staff have been on call continuously, even during school holiday periods, to support track and trace activities or reorganise the school in response to national guidance changes. Staff have remained exceptionally positive throughout this time and were delighted to return in September and welcome their new classes back to school. I have been incredibly proud of our children and how they have responded to the changes; they are certainly resilient! It has been lovely to see that, even with a period of time away from school, the children have not lost their love for learning.

There is an expectation from the Government that schools continue to assist with track and trace activities at the start of the holiday period. However, we will only need to be notified if your child has developed symptoms within the first two days after the end of the school term and then tested positive. We advise that if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 within the first 2 days after school closes that you arrange a COVID-19 test. If your child tests positive, between Friday 18th December and Monday 21st December 2020, please inform the school office (office@queen-eleanors.surrey.sch.uk) as soon as possible. Please note that if your child develops symptoms AFTER the 2 days, following the end of term, then you will not need to contact the school during the holiday period if your child tests positive. Instead, book a test as soon as possible and engage with the NHS test and trace services directly. If you or your child/ren contract COVID-19 over the holiday period, we will need to know this at the start of the school term. This will ensure that we are able to record your child's absence correctly if they are self-isolating.

As you will be aware, tomorrow will be my last day before heading off on maternity leave. I am of course incredibly excited for the arrival of baby Davies but will miss the children and staff. Although I have been working from home this half term, I have 'virtually' been in Mrs Curtin's office every day and enjoyed seeing the children virtually every Friday afternoon for our Celebration Assembly. Not that she needs it, but I would like to wish Mrs Curtin good luck in her new role as Interim Headteacher! I hope all the staff and children have a successful rest of the academic year and hope that the New Year sees the start of a return to normality for us all. This is not goodbye but a see you soon!

Finally, I think we would all agree that 2020 has been a very challenging year for schools, families and our children. I sincerely hope that you all have a lovely, relaxing Christmas and a healthy and happy 2021!

Kind regards,

Mrs Davies

Headteacher

www.queen-eleanors.surrey.sch.uk