

# Mugginton Church of England Primary School

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## Singing and Performing in the Winter Term Update

### Introduction

We believe singing and performing in front of others to be an essential part of primary school education at Mugginton. Music, dance and drama build confidence, enrich lives and help our children to discover and experience the joy of expressing themselves. We want to offer our children the full winter term experience – the Nativity, carol-singing and parties. However, there might be an additional risk of infection to children and staff in environments where singing, music and drama takes place. Many schools have cancelled Christmas performances and banned singing from the daily curriculum.

**We believe that children at Mugginton can sing and perform safely without increasing the infection-risk to staff or children.**

This statement has been prepared with particular reference to the DfE 'Guidance for Full Opening: Schools' (last updated 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2020). A key message from page one of the 'Music, Dance and Drama in School section is:

*'Singing, wind and brass instrument playing can be undertaken...'*

According to the guidance it is possible that the cumulative aerosol transmission from the individuals performing and attending events which could create an additional risk. However, on page 2, the guidance states:

*'...singing and playing wind and brass instruments do not currently appear to represent a significantly higher risk than routine speaking and breathing...with appropriate safety mitigation and consideration, singing, wind and brass teaching can still take place.'*

## **What we would like to do with our children**

The Christmas half-term is a special experience for our children. Alongside the anticipation and excitement of Christmas, the children sing carols, listen to Christmas music, perform a Nativity, participate in our Christingle Service and enjoy a Christmas lunch and party.

Our stated aim from the beginning of the school-reopening period is to maintain a sense of 'Mugginton-ness' by keeping changes and safety measures as unobtrusive as possible. With this in mind, we intend to do the following activities this half-term:

- The Infants (19 children) will perform a Nativity in the Infant classroom which will be recorded and, ideally, live-streamed.
- The Juniors will prepare a Pantomime (!) with Corrina. We hope it will be possible to perform this for the Infant children and record it for your delight.
- The children will sing Christmas carols during Thursday Collective Worship, outside whenever possible.
- We will explore the possibility of carol singing in the village and in Weston Underwood.
- The children will have a Christmas Party in school during the final two weeks of the term.

## **Guidance for singing and performing safely**

The guidance gives a clear set of actions which schools can implement to minimise the risk of infection.

- Schools must do everything possible to minimise contacts and mixing and take particular care to observe social distancing where possible.
- In order to avoid greater aerosol transmission, children are to be encouraged to sing and perform without shouting. Wherever possible, microphones will be used if a child's voice needs to be projected.
- Singing in groups should take place outside wherever possible.
- If it is not possible to sing outside because of the weather conditions, the children will sing in the Infant classroom (the largest possible space, with a high ceiling) with the three doors to the room open and the two windows in the extension area open to ensure good ventilation and natural airflow.
- Pupils will be positioned side-to-side rather than face-to-face when playing and/or singing whenever possible.
- Distances between children and staff will be as wide as possible. Staff, for example, might position themselves in the Reception area whilst the children face them from the back of the Infant classroom.
- In order to lower the cumulative aerosol transmission, parents will not be able to come in to school to watch the children perform this half-term. Performances will be recorded or live-streamed for everybody's enjoyment.

If you remain concerned about singing or performances this half-term you may have your child withdrawn from the sessions. Please speak to me if you would like to have your child withdrawn from singing or performance practice.