

## Re: Christmas at Valence 2020

**1<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

Dear Parents,

December has arrived and we are all looking forward to Christmas here at Valence. It is always a wonderful time of year – and much needed in the current climate. This year, we have had to adapt our plans to keep everyone safe and this letter outlines what we will be up to:

### **Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

As usual, we will be supporting the ‘save the children Christmas jumper day’. Students and staff are encouraged to wear a Christmas jumper and donate £2 which will be passed on to this appeal. Please send money in an envelope marked Christmas Jumper Day for your child’s bubble lead.

On this day, we will also be showing the premiere of our filming of Macbeth and are very excited.

### **Festive Fun Day – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

A Christmas fun day for all bubbles. There will be no lessons or physical management on this day so that all bubbles can take part in a range of Christmas based activities. This will include Christmas dinner for all students. Games and decorating activities will take place in the morning and we have arranged for an online pantomime to be screened in each bubble during the afternoon. Students will be encouraged to wear Christmas fancy dress (including wheelchair decorations if appropriate) and donate £2. This will go to the ‘Friends of Valence’ for use within the school. Please send money in an envelope marked ‘Festive Fun Day’ for your child’s bubble lead.

It is traditional for Santa to visit on our Christmas dinner day so that he can deliver a gift for all students. Unfortunately, because of the COVID restrictions in place, he will need to be in quarantine in the lead up to Christmas day and so will not be joining us this year!

To avoid staff shopping for individual presents, wrapping these and collecting them together – and also as a result of not all students being in school at this time, we have decided that all students will receive a gift voucher this year so that they can spend this when it is safe to do so. These vouchers have been provided by the Friends of Valence and we are grateful for this donation. Vouchers will be given out as part of our Festive Fun Day to those present and for those at home, we will post.

### **Primary Nativity – Ongoing**

All students in the primary phase are currently preparing for ‘Star Factor’ – this year’s version of the Nativity which will be filmed within bubbles and shown during the final week of term. Once the final edit has premiered, we will share a link with parents who will be able to watch this from home.

### **School Carol Service – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

This year’s carol service will take place virtually within bubbles. This will be for students and staff only and will follow all guidance relating to singing during this time. All bubbles will be involved.

### **Residential Student Activities – Throughout December**

Each residential bungalow will be organising their own Christmas craft and ‘mocktail’ drinks party, as well as taking part in a range of competitions during the build up to Christmas.

### **Christmas Cards/Presents – Ongoing**

We are always happy for students to send Christmas cards/presents to other students and staff. This year however, we would ask that cards are only sent to others within the same bubble. We will not be providing a whole school post box or delivery service this year, and do not want students to worry about getting cards to other bubbles. We would also ask that any presents that are given to recipients outside of the bubble are delivered no later than Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December so that it can be quarantined if necessary.

### **Ventilation and warm clothes – Ongoing**

The latest COVID guidance from the DfE asks schools to maintain good ventilation in classrooms. We will therefore be keeping selected windows open in classrooms even when the weather is cold. For this reason, we would ask that students are well equipped with warm clothes and additional layers. (All classrooms will have access to additional heaters)

### **Final day finish time – 18<sup>th</sup> December**

The final day of term will finish at the normal time for a Friday and with usual Friday transport arrangements.

### **Christmas Market – closes 13<sup>th</sup> December**

Do not forget to support the Friends of Valence Christmas Market:  
[www.valenceschool.com/christmas-market](http://www.valenceschool.com/christmas-market)

As you can see, Christmas is most definitely not cancelled, it is just a little different this year! Should you have any questions about any of the arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

**Matt Strange**

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