



**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we near the end of 2020, it is easy to reflect upon the many challenges we have overcome together. However, it is also important to remember that this has been a year of growth around the world: in connectivity, in tolerance and in compassion. We have grown stronger as a school community too – in the way that we communicate, in the support that we provide our pupils and in our capacity for change. Whatever 2021 has to offer, we can look ahead together with hope and sincere optimism, safe in the knowledge that your child will thrive.

I would like to **thank each of my incredible colleagues** for all that they have given during this year. Throughout challenging times at school and home, their dedication has been humbling and their work exceptional. It is an absolute privilege to work as a part of the Penpol team. Thank you also to our **governors** who – as unpaid volunteers – are instrumental in the strategic leadership of our school, particularly during such unusual times.

**This week** has been busier than ever. Our younger children have been performing virtual **Nativities** (please see Tapestry and Showbie accounts), Year 1 held an impressive '**Great Fire of Penpol**', **parties** were enjoyed by all and, on Monday, we came together as a whole school to sing **Christmas carols**. Well done to all our pupils for keeping so much energy going!



Children and staff have also been working hard to prepare our inaugural **[Christmas video album](https://www.penpolschool.co.uk/2020/12/17/christmas-video-album/)** which can be found by following this link: <https://www.penpolschool.co.uk/2020/12/17/christmas-video-album/>. Well done to all involved – a wonderful achievement. We hope that you enjoy it!



Thank you to all entrants of our PFA **Christmas art competition**. The standard was extremely high as always and judges were faced with some very tricky decisions. Congratulations to all of our winners, some of whom can be seen here.

Yesterday, we said good-bye to **Karen Mason** after her twenty-five years of service as a Teaching Assistant here at Penpol. Karen will be very much missed and we thank her for all that she has given to the school and so many pupils.



You may have seen yesterday that the government announced a phased return for some secondary pupils in January in order to allow schools to implement a new **testing** plan. No changes are planned for primary schools until later in the term. Please do not be alarmed – ‘mass’ (weekly) testing is designed for staff rather than pupils. Secondary students and staff will be offered ‘serial’ (daily) testing only **if** they have been in contact with an individual testing positive for COVID-19 but this will be **optional**. It is not yet known whether a similar approach will be taken in primary settings and we will update you with further information in the new year.

A reminder below of how to proceed should your child show symptoms of COVID-19 during the holiday:

- If your child develops symptoms **within 48 hours** of being in school and tests positive for COVID-19 on or before December 24<sup>th</sup>, please contact me on [head@penpol.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:head@penpol.cornwall.sch.uk).
- If your child develops symptoms **after 48 hours** of being in school **and/or** tests positive for COVID-19 **after December 24<sup>th</sup>**, you will be asked to engage with the NHS Test and Trace system.
- If in doubt or you need support, please contact me on [head@penpol.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:head@penpol.cornwall.sch.uk).

**Thank you** very much indeed for all of your support during 2020. Your trust in what we do means everything to us. **Well done** to each of our pupils for their hard work this term. They have made amazing progress and are now ready to enjoy a very well-deserved rest.

From all of us at Penpol, we warmly wish you all a very merry Christmas.

Very best wishes,

Chris Chislett  
Headteacher

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