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Festive Cards

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Local Authority issued guidance this week about the giving and receiving of Christmas cards.

I can confirm that cards **can** be shared in school in the following safe manner:

- 1) Children need to post their cards in the 'Card box' in their classroom first thing in the morning;
- 2) These cards will then be left for a minimum of 4 hours;
- 3) Then later in the afternoon or on the following day, the cards will be distributed to the class to take home.

This is in line with the following guidance to schools from Sheffield City Council Public Health:

- At normal room temperatures studies have found that the virus remains stable and detectable on paper and fabric for about 4 hours. UV light and temperatures of 20 degrees and over can weaken the virus so at normal room temperatures in normal light conditions the virus will naturally decay.*
- A festive card deposited in a school or workplace internal post box in the morning could be safely opened in the afternoon – paper that goes through external post (Royal Mail) may have been at lower temperatures/in darker conditions so for safety's sake please wash or sanitise your hands after taking deliveries of cards or parcels.*
- One study found that the virus can stay stable on skin for 96 hrs at normal room temperatures so wash your hands and avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.*
- Festive cards – particularly handwritten cards and handmade cards - can help people feel connected and this is important for people who are feeling isolated and lonely in this pandemic. With these simple precautions you can safely enjoy giving and receiving festive cards.*

Best wishes for the festive season

Sam Fearnough
Head teacher

