



17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you all, to firstly wish you all the happiest of Christmases and hope that you have an exceptional New Year, certainly the past year has proved once again to be challenging for many reasons.

As ever, health and safety are our top priority and I urge you to continue with Lateral Flow testing twice a week throughout the Christmas period in order to keep yourselves and your families safe. Once again, schools have been asked to test students on site on their return, in January but thankfully as it stands, we only need to do this once and so there is no need for a staggered start. All students are expected to return on **Tuesday 4th January**.

I am very proud of our whole school community and although it has been challenging, we have shown great character and continue to make progress on our journey to becoming outstanding.

As you know, we are a school that has pioneered character education, having held the Character Kitemark for a number of years now. I am proud to announce that we have now been awarded the prestigious 'Character Kitemark Plus' award! We are one of only 10 schools in the whole country to have been given this illustrious award. This award belongs to the staff, students, parents, governors and wider community, who have all contributed towards the school's commitment in building exceptional character within our school.

Below are a few of the comments from the awarding body, The Jubilee Centre:

'A school that equally values the importance of character alongside academic attainment'

'The language used is values- based and focuses on the aspiration for the behaviour'

'Aylesford goes beyond solely rewarding good behaviour and actively celebrates the display of the school's values'

'When the ethos of a school's character programme is also promoted within the family home, the child is truly immersed in character'



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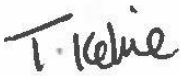
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I am hoping that I will not have to send out any urgent communications over the Christmas period but this will be very much dependent on developments and announcements from the government or DFE. Please check your emails regularly - we would also send a text if there was urgent communication regarding returning to school in January.

I would like to personally thank you for your commitment and support of the school throughout the past year. 2021 was yet another difficult year, however we begin 2022 in a strong position ready to adapt to any significant changes we may have to undertake.

Wishing you a happy and peaceful Christmas and a Happy, Healthy 2022!

Yours Sincerely,



Miss Kelvie  
Headteacher - Aylesford School

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*School of*  
**CHARACTER**



**RESPECT** SELF-DISCIPLINE **COURAGE**  
OPEN-MINDEDNESS **MOTIVATION**  
**RESILIENCE** CONFIDENCE **INTEGRITY**  
COMPASSION **CURIOSITY**