

**HILDENBOROUGH CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL**

***To be the best we can be, for ourselves, for others and for God.***

**Monday 1st March 2021**

Dear Year 5 Parents and Children,

**Year 5/6 Production**

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As you will be aware, in recent years, the Year 5/6 Production in the summer term has been held at the E. M. Forster Theatre. This has provided some wonderful opportunities for children to experience performing in a professional theatre over the years. Unfortunately, the announcement about the proposed lifting of Coronavirus restrictions made it clear that the earliest that restrictions would be lifted fully on large indoor gatherings in entertainment venues would be the 21st June 2021. We have therefore, as a school, had to evaluate whether our performance at the theatre will be able to go ahead as planned this year.

Following consultations with the theatre, we have decided to make the very difficult decision to cancel the booking for our performance, which was due to take place in June. We realise that this will be disappointing for much of the school community: children, families and staff alike. We have made the decision with a very heavy heart but please be assured that it is not a decision we made lightly, and we will endeavour to provide a fantastic performance, which will be delivered in-school in July.

Our decision-making has been informed by the published guidance and our communications with the theatre, who made it clear that, as an indoor entertainment venue, they would be running at 50% capacity until restrictions are fully lifted, on 21st June 2021 at the earliest. As we are sure you can appreciate, the costs involved in booking performances at the theatre represent a considerable financial commitment for the school. As such, it may have been necessary to raise ticket prices considerably and limit the number of family members who could attend if the venue was running at 50% capacity. The nature of the performance at the theatre also means that only one evening performance would be possible.

We remain committed to Years 5 and 6 having a production in the summer term and feel that, by delaying the performance until July, we have a greater chance of all restrictions being lifted. The theatre is unfortunately unable to offer alternative dates, which means we will aim to deliver the performance in school, as has been the case with many productions over the years. This will ensure that, as long as guidance allows at the time, we will be able to hold two performances, allowing more family members to attend.

There will remain some difficulties in preparing a production with social distancing measures in place and guidance around school-based ‘bubbles’, of course. Government guidance, at the current time, also prevents classes from singing indoors. We are hopeful that, as restrictions ease elsewhere, guidance will be updated to reflect this but please rest assured that we are committed to preparing a production and will do so safely and to the best of our ability under the circumstances and restrictions in place. If we are still unable to welcome an audience into school in July, we will, of course, ensure that parents are able to enjoy the performance in some way- for example via video recording.

We are in the process of arranging a date with the E. M. Forster Theatre for June 2022 and are very much looking forward to seeing the children perform there next year.

We appreciate your understanding in the difficult circumstances.

Many thanks,

The Year 5 and 6 Teams.

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