



To: State Schools, Educational Institutions, Directors General, CIO, Directors, Head and Heads College Network
From: The Office of the Permanent Secretary
Subject: Guidelines for the Festive Period in Schools
Date: 30th November 2020

Reference is made to the *Advice and guidelines issued to the educational sector for the re-opening of primary and secondary schools in Malta* issued by the Health Authorities on the 2nd September 2020 and to Memo 6/2020 issued by the Permanent Secretary (MEDE).

Following the guidance sought from the Health Authorities with regards to the Christmas festive period in these particular circumstances, it is to be noted that the organisation of Christmas activities in schools have to be different from the ones we had in the past due to the current circumstances related to Covid-19 pandemic.

Everyone needs to remain vigilant and continue observing all the measures introduced by the Ministry for Education in schools. All measures are to be observed consistently by everyone at all times.

In this regard any initiatives considered by schools for this festive season need to be carefully considered so that they do not increase the risk factor in our schools. We aim for this in order to keep our school community and families safe.

As per guidelines issued by the Health Authorities all activities and initiatives shall follow the protocols followed every day in our schools:

- No Christmas parties or concerts are to be held
- It is important to maintain an adequate physical distance from one another
- Emphasis on the correct wearing of masks;
- No mixing of bubbles;
- Frequent hand washing or hand sanitisation using a correct technique;
- Only individual food packs brought by the students themselves are to be allowed with no sharing of food; and
- Non-personal items are to be left in quarantine before handling.

In addition any decorations have to be kept to a minimum and hung where they cannot be touched in common areas such as corridors.

These guidelines are to be conveyed to parents/guardians. It is being recommended that parents/guardians are informed that this year, due to the current circumstances, the Christmas festive period in schools will be different and that any activities held will be according to the advice and guidelines issued by the Health Authorities. This is being done for the safety of all the children and school employees.

The true Christmas spirit can still be instilled and taught to our students cautiously without increasing the risk factor.

The Ministry for Education takes the opportunity to thank you for your continuous cooperation and for keeping our schools as safe as possible.

Office of the Permanent Secretary
Ministry for Education