

SWINDON VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mr G Mills BA Hons (QTS), NPQH

9th October 2026

Dear Parents

Christmas Concert 2026

I am writing with some genuinely sad news regarding our traditional Year 4, 5 and 6 Christmas Concert at **All Saints Church**.

For many years, our Christmas Concert at All Saints has been a very special part of the school calendar. It is an occasion that our children, staff and families look forward to enormously, and the church has always provided a wonderful and atmospheric setting in which our school community can come together to celebrate Christmas.

Sadly, following All Saints' recently updated Fire Risk Assessment, we have been advised of a revised maximum number of people who can safely be accommodated within the church.

The maximum capacity is now **300 people in total**. Importantly, this figure includes everyone in the building, not simply the audience. Once our children, school staff and musicians are included, together with the five All Saints front-of-house staff and clergy, this would leave capacity for only **95 parents and carers** at each concert.

To put this into context, we would normally sell approximately **350 tickets to parents and carers alone** for our Christmas Concert.

We have looked carefully at whether we could continue at All Saints by running additional performances. However, accommodating our families would require us to run at least three concerts in one day. We do not believe this would provide the experience we want for our children, nor would it be a reasonable or manageable expectation for pupils and staff.

Those of you who have attended the concert in previous years will also appreciate how much of the occasion comes from having our families together. Restricting an individual performance to just 95 parents and carers would, we feel, fundamentally change the atmosphere and sense of celebration that makes the evening so special.

It is therefore with real sadness and disappointment that we have accepted that holding our traditional Christmas Concert at All Saints is no longer a viable option under the revised capacity arrangements.

However, the Christmas Concert is most definitely not being cancelled.

I am pleased to confirm that our concert will still take place on:

Wednesday 16 December 2026

Our current intention is to bring the spirit and format of our traditional All Saints concert back to school and hold it in our extended school hall. Under our school's current fire-safety arrangements, we expect to be able to offer two performances on the same day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

We will do everything we can to make the school hall feel every bit as special and Christmassy as possible. Most importantly, our children will still have the opportunity to perform, sing, play music and share this wonderful occasion with their families.

We know that many parents will share our disappointment. **We certainly do.** All Saints has been part of our Christmas tradition for many years, and this is not a change we would have chosen to make. However, the safety of our children, families, staff and wider community must always come first, and we must respect the revised capacity identified through the church's Fire Risk Assessment.

Further information regarding performance times and ticket arrangements will follow once we have finalised the organisation of the concert.

Thank you, as always, for your understanding and support. Although Christmas 2026 will look a little different, we are determined that it will still be a wonderful celebration and a very special occasion for our Year 4, 5 and 6 children and their families.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Mills
Headteacher