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Dear Parents and Carers,

Today we have found out about the Tier we are entering into in the run up to Christmas. A number of schools are considering how to approach this next period to try to ensure we can enjoy time with our families and friends to celebrate as far as possible.

To that end I have spoken at length with our Health and Safety colleagues for any advice they can give us to keep us safe in the run up to the festive period. The response was very clear, follow the government guidance and remind the children about Hands Face Space by modelling it ourselves! Please can I appeal to you all about following the government advice. If you have symptoms book a test and isolate with your family until you have the result. Please do not send your child to school whilst waiting for results - if you are positive this could impact on staff and other children. Please do not socialise with others beyond your bubble. Studies have clearly shown that the mixing of households beyond the guidance has caused significant problems with the spread of the virus.

Finally I just want to thank you all for your patience and support this term. It has been far from easy for all of us but by working together I am confident we can make it to Christmas safely when we can hopefully spend time with our families celebrating the real meaning behind the season.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Rickeard".

**Paul Rickeard**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust**