

Letter to parents/ carers - 07 September 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Welcome back

We hope that all of our children and families had a relaxing summer holiday. Our school teams are excited about welcoming back the children who have been with us for a while and to getting to know our new families and children. Everyone is working hard to make the start of the school year as happy and successful as it can possibly be.

The Covid-19 situation and how we are working in our schools

As we communicated at the end of last year, we very much hope that this school year will be more in line with normal ways of working than we have experienced over the last 18 months. We have been able to remove a number of the Covid-19 restrictions which had been in place at our schools. There are no longer 'bubbles' as such and single cases of Covid-19 will not trigger the isolation of groups of children.

However, we are mindful that the pandemic is not over. You may be aware that infection rates for Peterborough (and Hampton) remain high. Therefore, we do ask that adults entering the school building continue to wear a face covering. This is in line with government guidance recommending the use of face-coverings when adults mix with people who are not part of their regular contacts.

Parents can help reduce the risk of Covid-19 in school, by **keeping home** children who have Covid-19 symptoms and arranging for a PCR test to be carried out.

Contingency planning

It is the government's intention to keep schools open in the coming school year, as we see out the next (and hopefully final) stages of the pandemic. We support this aim and hope that we will not see the kind of disruption to education experienced in the last two school years.

However, parents and carers need to be aware that should there be an outbreak in one of our schools (a cluster of cases) or a continued rise in community transmission in our locality, we would work with the local authority and public health teams to implement further infection control measures. These would be decided with expert guidance and could take the form of the reintroduction of some of the measures used last year (bubbles etc).

In the meantime, we continue to have some measures in place, such as a continued emphasis on hand hygiene, encouraging good respiratory hygiene (Catch it, Kill it, Bin it), enhanced cleaning regimes and ensuring good ventilation in classrooms/ communal areas. Each school's updated Covid-19 risk assessment for this term is on its website.

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Thank you all for your continuing support. It makes a tremendous difference to our staff to know that you are working with us and appreciate the challenges we face. We wish everyone a successful first few weeks back.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'H Price'.

Dr Helen Price
Executive Headteacher