

Dear parents and carers

I hope you have all had a restful and enjoyable summer holiday - even though it may not have been one that you had planned! I am sure like me, you appreciated the fact that we live so close to the sea this summer in particular. I had a lovely break, clocking up many miles on my new ebike. My husband and I cycled round the Isle of Wight for 4 days which was a real adventure - not something I could ever have done before my bike had a battery though! We were also able to give our daughter and her fiance a 'mock wedding' on what was due to be their wedding day which was a lot of fun.

I did promise that I would get back in touch with you all before the start of the new term. I have amended the advice that we sent out at the end of term but there are very few changes. I have attached it to this email. Most of the new government advice relates to secondary schools, however, the main change is that we will be asking any visitors into the school building to wear a face covering. However, we would ask that where possible any communication happens by telephone or email and that you only come into the school in exceptional circumstances. Our full risk assessment is available on the website.

These are still not 'normal' times but we promise to try and make the experience as normal as possible for your children at least. They showed us in the summer term just how resilient they could be and also just how much they love coming to school! There will be things that can't happen in the same way that they do normally and it has been really hard for us to make any plans, particularly with the winter coming and the possibility of a resurgence of cases. We hope you will bear with us - we will try to keep you as up to date as we can, but making plans only have to change them at the last minute is not helpful either.

The one thing you can be sure of is that we will be doing everything we can to make the school experience your children have full of fun, learning and happiness. If there is any support you feel you or your child might need all you have to do is ask. Lisa Noice, our Family Liaison Officer, and Diane Bosustow, our ELSA, are there specifically to help you through tricky or challenging times. The most important line of our risk assessment states: **'every action taken should be based on kindness, compassion and respect'**. This is fundamental to the ethos of our school. If you have any particular concerns about attendance for example please contact me to talk it through - I am more than happy to do this.

Can I also just give a particular welcome to our new families joining us this year at a very strange time. Normally by now I would have met you all and have got to know your children, so I am more determined than ever to make up for this - even though I do have to try and remain outside of classroom bubbles if I can. That is going to be my biggest challenge!

So we look forward to seeing you all over the next few days - remember - all will be well.

Jacky

Jacky Halton
Headteacher