



PURBROOK INFANT SCHOOL
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11 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As the autumn term ends and we look forward to the Christmas break, and hopefully a much healthier 2021, I would like to thank all of you for the support and encouragement you have given the school in the last nine months.

Following the announcement by the Department for Education, that you may have seen coverage of in the media, I can confirm that we have decided not to follow their suggestion of closing a day early for the break. We felt that at this late stage it would be more disruptive for children and parents, not only because of potential issues closing next Friday would cause, but because we would have to move one of the INSET days from next year that we have already published and which I know many of you have made holiday plans around. The final day of term will therefore be Friday 18th December and the first day back in the spring will be Monday 04 January. (Drop off and pick up arrangements will remain as they are currently for the time being).

It has been a year like no other for all of us, it has not always been easy and the stresses and challenges have at times seemed insurmountable but somehow, by pulling together, we have managed. I am so proud of our school community. The children have been an absolute credit to each one of you. They have adapted so readily to the new expectations and ways of working, taking care to follow the rules and look after each other. The staff have shown immense resilience and commitment to keep going and keep being creative, fun and engaging to ensure every child had a safe, happy and positive experience at school during the last term. The 'recovery curriculum' has been very successful and we have been delighted to see the children so engaged, working hard and making progress.

When we had to close a bubble, the children once again rose to the challenge and adapted to another 'normal' and staff provided some fantastic remote learning that ensured progress but was also great fun for the children. Thank you so much to the parents and carers who supported with the online learning, took part in the challenges being set by teachers and took time to send positive feedback and messages of appreciation.

Although there are promising signs of an end to this pandemic next year, we are committed to remaining vigilant and not becoming complacent within our schools in order to keep everyone safe and healthy. This will be particularly important next week as we reach the end of term. This year, perhaps more than any other, we have all come to value family time, being able to be in the same room as parents, siblings and friends and being able to hug loved ones. I am sure many of you have family members who are in the vulnerable category or who you worry about, that you may not have seen for some months, many of our staff do too, and we want to make sure you can spend Christmas with them should you wish to. We will therefore ensure we remain vigilant on social distancing, hand washing, ventilating rooms, and no mixing across our new class bubbles (which are in place until the end of the autumn term) right up until the last day of term. We want to avoid having to ask anyone, adult or child, to isolate for ten days (new time frame published today) thus missing the opportunity to be with family on Christmas day.

PTO

I hope we will not have any confirmed cases in the final week of term or during the Christmas break, however there is still a possibility we may. Please may I ask you to inform me of any positive test results that arise up to and including 23 December. This is particularly important where your child has been in school in the 48 hours before, and up to ten days after, the symptoms of COVID emerge. Please use the following details to contact me; Please e-mail covidabsence@purbrook-inf.hants.sch.uk. Please provide your child's name and class, the symptoms they ha/ have and when these began, their last day in school, the date of the test and the end date of their quarantine period.

Should there be a reported case of COVID in our school community during the holiday period we will seek advice, as we always do, from Public Health England, all contacts will be identified and letters e-mailed to those affected informing them of the case, requesting them to isolate and providing the ten-day isolation end date. Any person identified as a positive contact will be required to isolate regardless of the time of year or if the isolation period falls across Christmas day. Beyond 23 December there should not be any need to report cases to school as we would not have any action to take, however if your child has symptoms, a member of your household has symptoms or your child has already been asked to isolate beyond 04 January please report their absence in the usual way.

Finally, may I wish you and your families a happy and peaceful Christmas and a very healthy new year. I will look forward to welcoming you all back in 2021.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L A de Carteret', written over a horizontal line.

Mrs L A de Carteret
Headteacher