



PURBROOK INFANT SCHOOL
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01 July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Good afternoon

I wanted to take this opportunity to respond to you with a detailed explanation and our reasoning behind the decision to not invite parents into school for our annual sports day.

I appreciate this decision may have upset a few of our families and I completely understand and empathise with you wanting to have these experiences with your children. It has not been a decision that we have taken lightly and there has been a lot of work looking at the risks involved in having large gatherings on the school site to try and make it work.

Although the DFE/Government declared on the 15 June that we could allow up to 30 adults in a group to watch Sports day, this was a very generic statement that, cannot and will not work in every school setting.

We made the decision to keep sports day informal this year, rather than a whole school event. We will be carrying out the activities in our year group bubbles, keeping to the current school risk assessment.

Areas considered when risk assessing:

- National cases of Covid-19 have increased over the recent weeks, especially in schools. Quarter of a million children have been out of school this last week following positive cases.
- We are aware that we have a rising number of Covid-19 cases in the school community. Last week Portsmouth had the highest numbers of cases in Hampshire.
- Many local schools have been closing bubbles on a daily basis.
- The Local Authority are advising that schools are cautious and are not putting the staff and children at unnecessary risk – advising that gatherings are not happening, these need to remain virtual.
- The outside area available for us to use on the day is simply not big enough to safely social distance 90 parents in groups of 30.
- Not all parents will be able to come as a party of one, this rule would simply not suit all family set ups.
- Visitors must have the opportunity to use the toilets, increasing the risk transmission.
- All staff will be supporting the children in their sport activities, we do not have enough spare staff to monitor and control social distancing.

Any decision made is made in the best interest of the staff and children, the last thing I would want is to close a bubble this close to the end of term, ruining peoples summer holiday. It is also important to me that we are not the cause of a positive case transmitting through our community, which could end in someone becoming really unwell or worse.

I am sure, although disappointed, you will understand and support us with this decision. I am really optimistic that next year we will be able to come back in September, free of bubbles and social distancing. We are already looking at ways to involve parents and get you all back in school. I will endeavour to record and share elements of the children's sports activities on that day to ensure you have a keep sake of the event.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns around these decisions.

Kind regards

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