

# Shepherds Down School

Shepherds Lane, Compton, WINCHESTER. Hants. SO21 2AJ

Tel: 01962 713445 Fax: 01962 713453 Email: [admin@shepherdsdown.hants.sch.uk](mailto:admin@shepherdsdown.hants.sch.uk)  
Headteacher: Mrs Debby Gooderham



20<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are at the end of the year! It has definitely had its challenges but also lots of positives. In particular how quickly children have settled back into school after the lockdowns, the relatively small number of cases we have had and only 2 classes who have needed to isolate over the year, the resilience of staff, children and families and the fact that we have been able to stay open and provide face to face education for all throughout. I am very grateful for the support from all of you over the year, I know it has been really difficult for you all.

## Transition:

The class lists for September were shared on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July along with the end of year reports. Transition meetings have taken place to share the information about your child and where possible new class teachers have been to see new children in their classes, whilst ensuring this has not increased mixing outside of classes. The virtual tour is also now on the website and you can find the section for your child's new class from the list. If you have any concerns about your child's transition please let me know as soon as possible, so we can see how we can help.

## Goodbyes:

Firstly, we need to say goodbye to all our year 6 children and their families. We will miss them all next year, but also am confident that they will all do really well in their new schools.

We also need to say goodbye to some staff who are moving onto pastures new – Florence (LSA in Doves), Grace (LSA in Penguins), Kezia (LSA in Skylarks) and Laura (LSA in Jays). I am sure you will join me in wishing them well in their next steps.

## COVID – 19 New Guidance:

As you will be aware there is new government guidance for schools for September, particularly in relation to the need to isolate after close contact with a positive case. There is further information expected around this and I will share how we will be implementing this guidance, just before the end of the holidays. We will also have a clearer idea of the infection levels by then. However, I am anticipating that we will be continuing with the vast majority of the precautions in place, at least initially whilst we find out how this new guidance will work in practice.

## Saliva testing:

We are very pleased to be part of the Saliva testing programme from September. Information about this was sent out last week and it is not too late to confirm that you are willing for your child to be included. Obviously, the more staff and children we have taking part the more we can stop possible transmission before it happens. We will also be providing some visual information to support the testing process, if required.

We will continue to recommend that all staff also complete a rapid lateral flow test at the start of their working week in addition as the Saliva test results are not immediate.

## Dates for next term:

September INSET days – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September  
School Starts back for children– Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September

I really hope you all have a good holiday and hope that the coming year has a few less challenges for all!



Hampshire  
County Council

