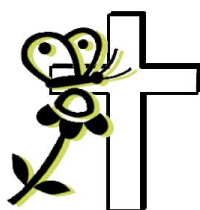


HOWDEN CHURCH OF ENGLAND INFANT SCHOOL

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1st July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We felt we wanted to get back in touch to give you all an update of where we are in regards to your child starting school in September. Following the information below from the Local Authority we are now unable to proceed as planned. It was not how we envisaged welcoming your child into our school. Hopefully, September will signal a return to 'normal' school life.

Following correspondence from the Local Authority and Public Health England received on Wednesday 23rd June, we have had to take the difficult decision to cancel all planned transition events at both Howden Infant School and Howden Junior School. Any virtual events planned will continue to take place.

Although this is immensely disappointing for everyone, the information shared clearly shows that:

- Cases in the East Riding have increased
- The number of cases in children and young people have increased
- The increase is particularly as a result of household transmission

Furthermore, guidance from the Local Authority now states:

"It is important that the integrity of bubbles is maintained across the week so that pupils do not mix with pupils and staff from different bubbles. This is particularly important at this time as we know that the Delta variant is more transmissible than other variants of the virus. Consideration therefore needs to be given to whether any planned transition activities result in pupils mixing with pupils and staff from different bubbles – even in your own school. If the activity will result in bubbles mixing, then the event should not take place. We would strongly advise that transition events take place remotely."

Sadly, due to the nature of primary schools, it would not be possible to maintain the integrity of the bubbles if new parents/ carers and children visited the school..

Both schools have done extremely well at controlling the spread of the virus (and recent variants) with minimal interruptions to the children's learning due to closed bubbles. Therefore, it is important that we continue to adhere to the current risk assessments and follow our current procedures for the remainder of the academic year. The safety of the pupils, staff and wider community continues to be our highest priority.



Given the above we have decided to offer the following to new parents and children joining the Howden Church of England School community in September: -

- Parents will be able to come to the school office between the hours of 10am – 2pm to pick-up a new starter pack from Thursday, 8th July 2021. Parents are asked to bring their child's full birth certificate with them so that it may be checked by the school office.
- All the information needed for starting in September is in the pack sent home – look out particularly for the staggered start and joining Google Classroom.
- Mrs. McCarthy, our EYFS lead, will be visiting the three main childcare providers in Howden – Preschool, Maxis and Wellybobs – over the coming weeks to speak to the children's current key worker.
- Once parents/carers are signed up to the Google Classroom, at the end of the summer holidays, the class teacher will post a welcome message to you all!

We know that this is an anxious time for everybody and that due to Covid-19 no open evenings will be allowed, further adding to worries. We can assure you that the team within school will be doing all they can to ensure that your child's transition into next year will be as smooth as possible.

Thank you for your support and understanding,

Best wishes

Jane Cawthorn

Head Teacher

