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Letter to Parents/Carers

17/7/20

Hello

We are at the end of what has been a difficult term for children, parents, carers and staff. Holly House has remained open throughout the lockdown and 24 pupils have attended part-time with 4 accessing residence. We have maintained contact with you and hopefully been able to keep your child supplied with work. In September, the government are insisting that all pupils return to full-time education. They have issued guidance to Head Teachers as to how we can open up safely in September and I can assure you that we will have measures in place to mitigate risk and keep things safe. The government have also issued advice and guidance for parents which can be found on-line at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term> This link can also be found on the Holly House website.

School starts for existing pupils at 10am on Friday 4th September with new pupils starting their induction from Monday 7th September. Special Needs Transport have not yet given details of how they will safely transport your child to and from school. This information should be with you by Tuesday 1st September. Term dates for the whole of next year are included in this mailing and are also available on the website. Remember that pupils should not be taken out of school during term time unless there are 'exceptional circumstances'. Forms requesting time off are available from the school office. Penalty notices for non-attendance will start again in September.

I hope that all pupils will return in September as we have a lot of catching up to do. The government are providing additional funding to help children catch up on missed learning and in September we will be looking at how we can target our pupils with additional learning. Some pupils have not been in school since March and will need a lot of support to ease them back into the routine of school. If there any individual problems, please get in touch and we will see how we can help.

There will still be issues around covid-19 when school reopens in September and many of the activities that we usually have planned will still not be able to take place. Residence and extended day will be running in a reduced form to meet with guidelines. School trips and visits may not be possible as many venues are still

closed. School swimming will not start until November at the earliest. We will try and offer the usual Broad and Balanced curriculum, but some of this will depend on our 'bubbles' and staffing. Six weeks is a long time in education at the moment and the government may well change their advice and guidance before we start back so I will confirm all the details with you at the start of September.

I hope you all have a safe and peaceful summer holiday and I look forward to seeing everyone back for the new school year in September. If you need to contact me or any of my staff over the holiday, the best way is by email at iwilliams@hollyhouse.derbyshire.sch.uk and I will get back to you hopefully within 24 hours.

Wishing you all the best

Iain Williams

Head Teacher