

Deal Parochial Church of England (Aided) Primary School

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"A new year is unfolding—like a blossom with petals curled tightly concealing the beauty within.

Lord, let this year be filled with the things that are truly good—with the comfort of warmth in our relationships, with the strength to help those who need our help and the humility and openness to accept help from others.



As we make our resolutions for the year ahead, let us go forward with great hope that all things can be possible—with Your help and guidance." Amen



04-01-21

Dear Families

I hope this finds you all keeping safe and feeling rested following the two week holiday.

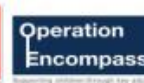
Happy New Year to you all! I write this with a sense of hope, determination and courage that we will continue to weather this pandemic and the political storm that follows it. The national and local news has raised so many issues for both staff and families to consider, which in turn I understand will have caused you to ask many questions, and created even further uncertainty about the school opening and how we can continue to offer a safe education.

I want to reassure you that we are continuing to hold you, your children's and staff safety as paramount, along with the urgent need to get back to learning and regain some of the lost time, knowledge and skill that our pupils have experienced.

The school aims to be open as originally planned as from Tuesday 5th January 2021.

We can all see that circumstances seem to change rapidly and I hope that we can depend on some level of consistency now that we have committed to opening.

Unfortunately, I need to inform you that I am currently self- isolating, and I will keep you updated on this. I will be working from home. Mrs Porteous, the deputy head teacher, will take the lead role at school. We have been working closely together over the weekend and are certain that the school will not be



compromised during this time. Mrs Hogben also returns to school as part of the senior leadership team, and can be contacted for family support and any safeguarding concerns. We are a very strong team with a shared sense of responsibility and experience.

I know that some families have experienced some sadness and testing times over the Christmas holiday. I would like to express our sympathy and support. Please do not hesitate to contact staff should there be anything we can do to help and ease the burden.

I am sure there will be some families who have risk assessed the dangers to personal health during this high current COVID 19 rate and may wish to stay safe at home. Please let us know, and keep in touch. We will do our best to send learning home. It helps us when we know if children have access to the internet and a computer so that they can join the remote learning that teachers have prepared.

General school information and updates.

- Please check the notice board and teacher newsletters for information about PE days. Pupils can continue to wear their PE kit into school.
- Please send in a water bottle with fresh water every day.
- Pupils **must not** bring chocolate bars and sweets into school as part of their lunch or snacks.
- Any hair accessories must be green in keeping with the school uniform.
- I am aware that it is difficult to go out shopping for new shoes at this time. Please try to match footwear as near as possible to the uniform and to maintain safe and sensible footwear. Uniforms can continue to be ordered from the school provider as advertised at the school entrance and on our website.
- Please put your child's name in coats and jumpers and fleeces as this really helps us return lost items quickly. Children should come to school with a warm coat.
- We will continue with the staggered arrival and pick up times.
- We will be celebrating the Epiphany this week during Collective Worship. This is the Christian celebration of the Three kings visiting Jesus at the stable.



Thank you for supporting the school by sticking to our policies and requests.

That is all for now.

Keep safe, warm and smiling – these things we can do!

Kind regards

Justine Brown

Head Teacher

