

Good morning everyone

I hope you have all come back down to earth after Saturday's football game - a great match and such a rare treat to feel confident about the result almost from the start!

I have kept a rather low profile over the last few days having been feeling pretty unwell - not like me at all! I decided to work from home to make sure I didn't share my germs and sent myself off for a PCR test just to be sure. All was well, but we have high numbers of children off school today with a range of illnesses, so there is clearly something not very nice around. Numbers of children off school because of the need to self-isolate, both in Hampshire and nationally, are extremely high and many schools are having to send bubbles home even now. We have been told that is more likely than unlikely statistically that we will be affected here before the end of term. Quite a sobering thought.

It is for this reason we have decided not to have our proposed end of term picnic on 23rd July, whatever decision is made on the 19th July. I know this will disappoint many of you - we all feel the same. However, there is nothing to stop you getting together in smaller groups informally that night. I am responsible for track and trace for a week after we break up and I would rather be telling you this news now, than having to call 60 families during the first week of the holiday asking you to self-isolate, ruining holiday plans. We will be doing something separate for our year 2 bubble on the afternoon of the 23rd and we will email Year 2 parents with information about this nearer the time.

Headteachers have felt between 'a rock and a hard place' for the majority of this year, trying to do the right thing by children, parents and staff and to navigate through the daily guidance for schools coming from government, which can sometimes seem at odds with other types of guidance. It was very strange watching Wimbledon at the weekend, for example, and seeing people in such large numbers when our staff still can't even meet together in the staff room.

However, we have come this far and remain committed to ensuring that the end of term for the children will be full of fun and enjoyment - and there is still a considerable amount of learning going on! I'm sure you would expect no less - our staff are skilled at getting that balance right.

So at the risk of repeating myself, thank you again for your understanding. Today you will receive our annual questionnaire in your child's book bag and this will be a chance for you to have your voice heard. We always value your opinion about how we do things in school, but particularly after such a challenging year for us all.

With love from

Jacky