

**Children, Families and  
Education**

Portsmouth City Council  
Civic Offices  
Guildhall Square  
Portsmouth  
PO1 2AL

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for all you have done over the last year to support your child's education and minimise the spread of coronavirus in your community. As we come to the end of the school year we are asking that you continue to remain vigilant and follow government guidelines.

Whilst the number of confirmed cases of coronavirus in Portsmouth has not yet increased as it has done in other parts of England, Public Health England are seeing an increasing number of positive Delta cases (variant first identified in India) in schools and educational settings.

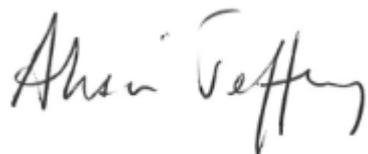
The public health control measures recommended for previous variants still apply. As the new variant is more transmissible it is more important than ever that everyone takes all appropriate steps to minimise the spread of coronavirus. This is particularly important in and around schools, where pupils, parents and many staff may not be fully vaccinated.

We would therefore ask all families to:

- Wear a face covering in public places where social distancing is not possible, including when dropping off or collecting your child from school;
- Ensure secondary age pupils wear a face covering everywhere they are asked to do so. In order to reduce the spread of infection we are encouraging schools that have recently had a confirmed case of coronavirus to reintroduce the wearing of face coverings in classrooms;
- Remain vigilant for the symptoms of coronavirus (high temperature, new and persistent cough or loss of sense of taste and smell).
- Get tested if you have any of these symptoms by booking a PCR test rather than relying on lateral flow device tests.
- Ensure that your child self-isolates when asked to do so following close contact with someone with coronavirus at school. They may also be asked to take a PCR test.
- Encourage your child to follow government guidance about social distancing and group sizes when out of school.

We appreciate that these are difficult messages at the end of what has been a very long and challenging school year. With your help and support we hope to avoid significant further disruption to children's education in these last few weeks of term.

Yours sincerely



**Alison Jeffery**

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