



Dear Parent and Carers,

We hope you and your families are well and have managed to enjoy some of the summer sunshine.

As we head towards the new school year we would like to provide you and your families with information about the additional measures our schools and settings have put in place ready for our September full school opening.

As you are aware schools and settings in BwD have remained open during lockdown for identified children and young people and children of key workers. During June our schools and settings were able to open to more children in key year groups identified by central government.

Since April together with the Local Authority, leaders in all schools and settings and teaching unions have been working together to plan to welcome back all children and young people.

We know our schools and settings are looking forward to welcoming our children and young people back, not only to support educational outcomes but to support well-being and wider development.

We understand some of you may have concerns regarding the return to school for your child, especially in light of the current restrictions in place within areas of BwD. The safety of all of our children and young people is of the highest priority for the Council.

Schools and settings have worked hard to adhere to government guidance and implemented strict risk assessments to become COVID secure environments. You may have already received correspondence from your child's school and setting explaining new practices and procedures in light of these risk assessments. If you have any questions regarding your child's school or setting and the procedures put in place please contact your child's school or setting in the first instance to talk through any concerns you may have.

The local authority has provided all of our schools and settings with a resource booklet to support the management of possible COVID cases. We have also established a team to give outbreak management support and guidance if there are any specific COVID related questions.

As you will be aware central government has made it clear attendance from September is mandatory – this means the usual rules for attendance to school applies. If you do have trouble in ensuring your child attends a school or setting please do discuss this with your child's school for support. The Local Authority Inclusion Team can also support children, young people and families.

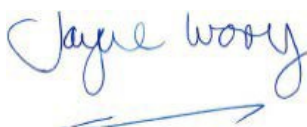
Hopefully these measure will help to reassure you we are confident schools and settings have worked hard to support the return of all of our children and young people in September. We know schools and settings will look different and practices and procedures may be unusual at first however staff will work hard to ensure these become the 'new normal' for children and young people.

As a Local Authority we have been reassured that every school and setting has put in place plans to reopen that reflect guidance from central government. Although there are new systems are in place the fabulous caring teachers and support staff are still there and are keen to get back to doing what they do best, educating your child.

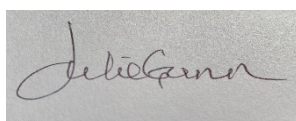
We feel very privileged in BwD to work with school staff who really do put our children and young people at the heart of all they do!

As you prepare with your child for the start of the new academic year we wish your child and family the very best for the new school year. Together we will ensure our children and young people return back to school in a safe yet new way.

Best wishes



Jayne Ivory
**Director of Children's
Services and Education**



Julie Gunn
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Joanne Siddle
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