Testwood School

Headteacher: Mrs. J. Pitmar



22nd June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the government announcement on Monday last week, that further lifting of national restrictions is delayed until Monday 19th July we have had to take the difficult decision to cancel our Year 6 Induction Days this academic year. This decision has been taken in consultation with local schools and in consideration of the safety for our local community as an absolute priority. It would not be safe for us to host year 6 students from a variety of local schools, breaking the 'bubbles' they have been in this year and significantly increasing the number of people they are mixing with in school over three days just a few weeks away from lifting national restrictions and everyone's long awaited summer holiday.

Furthermore, with a rise in national and local Covid cases at present we need to take practical steps such as this in order to limit the local growth in Covid cases, particularly as it has been reported this week 5-12 year old age group are showing more rapid increases in rates of Covid infection.

The Department for Education have also given schools a clear directive this week that 'traditional' transition arrangements cannot, at present, go ahead as planned. Therefore, our intention will be for the **New Year 7** and **Year 11** students to start the school year on Monday 6th September 2021. The rest of the school will then join them on Tuesday 7th September 2021.

In advance, we really appreciate your support with this in order to assist with the smooth transition for our new Year 7 students.

Yours faithfully,

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Mr D Murphy

Assistant Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead