

To: Letter to Parents and Carers

Date: 4 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Your child's school has been looking forward to welcoming your child to the new school year, or to the school for the first time. The press coverage over the last few days around school buildings has understandably overshadowed the return to school for some children. Only one school in East Sussex was identified by the DFE as potentially requiring partial closure. Your child's school will of course let you know if any precautions need to be taken over the coming months.

I am writing to you now for two reasons. The first is to let you know about support which is available, if you need it, to help you help your child to attend school regularly. The second is to emphasise how important it is that schools and families should work together positively to ensure that children make the most of the opportunities for them at school.

Being at school regularly

Attending school regularly is important not just for individual children but for everyone in their class. Teaching works best when every child in the class can make progress day by day, building their knowledge, understanding and skills. For everyone to succeed as well as possible we need everyone in the class to be there all the time or as much of it as possible. Children also need to see their friends, keep up to date with what the class is doing and feel the sense of belonging which they will have if they go to school every day.

Children do become ill sometimes, but they should always be at school if they can be. There is guidance from the NHS on common illnesses and the best response here: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

There is more information about your role as a parent or carer and what help you can expect from schools around school attendance here: [how to seek support](#)

If you have any concerns or questions at all about being at school, please ask your child's school. They want to help you and make sure your child is happy.

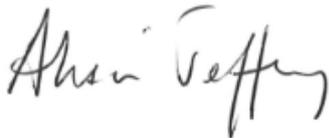
Working together positively

Every team achieves the most when they pull together and when everyone feels respected and valued by everyone else. You and your child's school are a team, dedicated to giving your child the best start to their life. If you become concerned about something which is happening at school, the school will want to help sort it out. They may not be able to talk to you immediately because of everything they are trying to do, but they will want to make sure that the right person is able to talk to you as soon as they can. With courtesy, goodwill and kindness on all sides, problems can usually be solved; so please be as patient as you can and remember we are all human beings. We all do our best when we feel safe, respected, and valued.

Thank you!

Finally thank you for reading this letter and more important for all the friendship and support you provide to everyone at your child's school. I hope your child/children have a great school year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Jeffery". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Alison Jeffery

Director of Children's Services