



Councillor Suzy Horton

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To whom it may concern

Dear Parent or Carer

On behalf of Portsmouth City Council and as the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education, I wanted to thank all parents and carers for the efforts you have made to support your child(ren)'s learning during what has been an extraordinary and very challenging year for everybody concerned.

I know that the partial closure of schools at the end of the spring term, and during the whole of the summer term, put an enormous strain on many families trying to balance home schooling with all the other responsibilities you have had. And whilst schools have been open for the Autumn term many children have had to learn from home for short periods of time due to the requirement to self isolate. Together with the support of our schools, colleges and early years settings we have all contributed to what has been a huge effort to ensure all of our children continue to receive a good education. Thank you.

I am aware of the appreciation that you all have for all the staff in this school and personally I am indebted to them, not only for the extraordinary work they have done to deal with all the changes of the pandemic, but also in distributing council funded food vouchers to families eligible for free school meals to enable them to receive £30 worth of supermarket vouchers per child to cover the Christmas holiday. I'm delighted we have been able to extend this scheme to eligible 16-19 year olds in colleges and a slightly different arrangement for eligible under 5s in January. The council has also committed funds to provide the same support for families over February half term.

I hope you are able to enjoy Christmas with your loved ones although I appreciate that for many it will be a difficult period due to the restrictions that are in place.

We look forward to welcoming your child(ren) back next term.

Yours sincerely

COUNCILLOR SUZY HORTON
Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education

Councillor Suzy Horton
Liberal Democrat
Central Southsea Ward
Cabinet Member for Education

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