



Monday 19th July 2021

Dear parent/carers,

I hope that this letter finds you safe and well. As I am sure you are aware, England is set to move to 'Step 4' today, Monday 19th July and the Government have released full guidance for schools. Changes have been introduced to maintain a baseline of protective measures while maximising attendance and minimising disruption to children and young people's education.

There are four **control measures** that will remain in place, in order to control the spread of the virus:

- 1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.**
- 2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.**
- 3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.**
- 4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.**

Please find below a summary of the guidance.

- 1. *No more bubbles from September*** - Consistent bubbles will no longer be required. Assemblies can resume also in September. Current bubble arrangements will remain in place until the end of this term.
- 2. *Staggered timings*** – From September, start, finish and lunch times will no longer need to be staggered. As you are aware, we will be writing to you prior to our return in September to confirm our start and end times of day.
- 3. *Contact tracing for schools*** - From Step 4, close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.
- 4. *Self-isolation as a result of close contact*** - From 16th August, children under the age of 18 and those who have been double vaccinated will no longer need to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as being identified as a close contact. Instead, they will be advised by NHS Test and Trace to take a PCR test.
- 5. *Face coverings*** - Will no longer be required for staff and visitors in either classrooms or communal areas.
- 6. *LFD testing*** - Staff are still strongly encouraged to carry our twice-weekly lateral flow testing when attending a school setting, up until the end of September when this guidance will be revised again.
- 7. *Travel over the Summer holidays*** - Please refer to latest travel advice [Government Travel Advice](#) in relation to travel, both within the UK and abroad. Parents are



encouraged to bear in mind the impact on their child(ren)'s education by any requirements to isolate on return from holiday.

8. **Children experiencing symptoms of Covid-19** - Pupils, staff or other adults must follow Public Health advice when experiencing any symptoms of Covid-19: **When to Self-Isolate Guidance**. Children or parents must **not** come onto the school premises if they are experiencing any symptoms and are required to begin self-isolating as soon as the symptoms begin. If pupils arrive at school with Covid-19 symptoms, school has the right to refuse entry for the pupil to protect other pupils and staff members.
9. **Remote Education** - This will still be provided to any children who are self-isolating and are well enough to work.
10. **Risk Assessments** – These continue to be live documents and will be updated both with the latest and any further guidance released before September.
11. **Positive cases** - Self-isolation rules will continue for those who have tested positive for COVID-19.

In the event of a local outbreak or one within school, we will work closely with health protection teams and Public Health England, who may advise temporarily re-introducing previous control measures to help minimise the spread of the virus. Any changes such as these will be communicated with you.

Please find below the link with the full guidance:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1002322/Schools_guidance_Step_4_update_for_14_July.pdf

We are mindful that guidance may change over the course of the six-week holiday. In any eventuality we will keep you informed of any changes that will impact on our school.

Thank you for your continuous support.

Stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Gibbins
Acting Head of School.