

Monday 19th July 2021.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Arrangements for September 21

Last week the Department for Education provided guidance to schools for the further lifting of restrictions. I am therefore writing to you. However, I'm afraid it goes without saying that the situation may have changed and plans may need to be reviewed again before the start of term!

Currently, the main change proposed is that **bubbles will not exist** and so consequently:

- Children will no longer be required to sit in rows enabling more flexible teaching once again.
- Staggered start and finish times will cease. The gate will open at 8.45am. All pupils will finish at 3.15pm. Parents will enter and leave via the gate by Discovery Classroom (no one way system in place). However, we will continue to ask that children go straight to class at the start of the day. This has worked well with children able to settle to do the early morning task. Please can parents of children in Pippin class drop off from inside the EY fenced area so that children independently make their way to the classroom door.
- For curriculum reasons, playtime for KS1 will remain at 10.15am and KS2 at 10.30am. However, lunch arrangements will return to normal with all children playing together across the 2 playgrounds.
- Face coverings will no longer be required.
- We will be able to hold worship collectively in the hall, have lunchtimes as a whole school and organise whole school events.
- Whole school singing can return as well as singing in individual classes. Yr 3 and 4 flute lesson will resume.
- Full school uniform will be worn 5 days per week with PE kits remaining in school.
- Although they are welcome to, children will no longer need to have their own pencil case. Incidentally, whilst pupils have had their pencil cases in school, quite a bit of school equipment appears to be missing. We will be having an amnesty tomorrow and Wednesday for schools pencils, pens, rulers and especially scissors! Please have a good search at home.

As a school we will continue to:

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

This will mean:

- Encourage children to wash their hands especially after having the need to use a tissue (catch it, bin it, kill it) and before consuming food.
- Tables and other surfaces regularly touched can be wiped down during the day.

- Windows will be opened ensuring a balance between ventilation and a comfortable temperature to work.
- When there are larger groups of people (e.g. plays in the hall), increased ventilation will be in place.
- Pupils should not come into school if they have symptoms/have had a positive test result. If anyone in the school develops symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home and they should follow PHE advice. If a pupil is awaiting collection, the procedures will be the same as previously with them waiting in the gazebo or in a well ventilated room. Positive cases will be referred to Test and Trace. Regarding positive cases, DFE guidance states: *As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. In the event of a confirmed COVID case, Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. Children will be contacted by NHS test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.*

As a school we need to have an outbreak management plan. We will be advised by PHE if an outbreak in the school (defined as several cases within a 14 day period) or in the local area, requires additional measures to be in place. This can include the need to:

- Reintroduce face coverings for parents and visitors
- Reintroduce bubbles as a last resort and decide which of the current precautions need to be reintroduced.

We are all looking forward to making these changes which will impact so positively on the children and their learning. If circumstances do not permit the above to take place, we will communicate with you from the 1st September.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P. Ryan