

Wednesday 14 July 2021

Dear Parents

### **Update on COVID-19 Guidance for Schools**

As you may be aware, the Government, via the Department for Education has now issued new COVID-19 guidance for schools effective from Monday 19 July 2021, in line with the wider removal of COVID-19 restrictions throughout the country from that same date. I wanted to write today to provide you an update on what this means for your child/children from 19 July.

Although we are still in school through to Friday 23 July, in line with government guidance we will be continuing with the same bubble system that we already have for the last week of school to ensure consistent health and safety measures are followed through to the end of the school year.

After the end of summer term, the following changes will be in place, in line with the new guidance:

- **Bubble system:** It will no longer be necessary to keep children in bubbles. This means that if your child is attending the Extend Holiday Club they will not be bubbles. It also means that there will no longer be a bubble system when we return to school in September for the start of the new academic year, as things currently stand.
- **Contact tracing:** We will continue to contact trace until the end of the summer term, so please continue to inform us if your child has tested positive for COVID so we can identify close contacts.
- **Self-isolation for children:** From Monday 16 August, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, they will only need to self-isolate if they have COVID-19 symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test result.
- **Face coverings:** Face coverings will no longer be advised for staff and visitors either in classrooms, in communal areas or during drop off and pick up (they are currently not advised for children). From Step 4, face coverings are also no longer recommended to be worn on dedicated transport to school and are no longer legally required on public transport.
- **Start and end of the day:** From September we will be reverting back to **one** drop off and pick up time as logistically this is easier enabling optimal timetabling for the children. As a reminder, the school gates open at 8:30am. Classroom doors open from **8:45am** and children should be in class no later than 8:55am for registration. The school day ends at **3:10pm**.
- **PE uniform:** The children should continue to wear the PE uniform to school on their PE days. You will receive information about what the children's PE days are next term. Please ensure that your child is wearing the **correct** PE uniform, this includes the grey sweatshirt and joggers with the **school logo**. A full list of our uniform can be found [here](#).

- **Enrichment Clubs:** We are working hard on providing a full range of enrichment clubs for the autumn term and these clubs will be back to mixed year groups. You will receive information on how to sign your child up to a club for the autumn term on Friday.

Please see the [guidance](#) 'Step 4- Update- what parents need to know about schools' for further details.

Although there will be changes as part of the easing of restrictions, as a school we will have outbreak management plans in place, as required by the Government, to ensure we are prepared to continue to operate if there is transmission of the virus in our school or the local community. This will mean that if the situation requires it, a bubble system or other measures may need to be temporarily reinstated in the future, and we must stress that the safety measures in place will be continually reviewed and assessed in accordance with Government and local guidance.

As has been the case throughout the pandemic, ensuring the health and safety of our children and staff is our top priority. As such, we will be continuing to encourage good hygiene including regular hand-washing, maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes, keeping occupied spaces well ventilated and following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

As was the case at the start of the pandemic when we had to adjust to a new way of life, this new change again may inevitably create some uncertainty as we all adapt. However, we will continue to work closely together as a school community to ensure the best outcomes for children, staff and our wider community.

Just a reminder that the last day of term is **Friday 23 July 2021** and the children will be finishing at their regular staggered time. The children will return to school on **Thursday 2 September 2021**. Families travelling abroad should bear in mind the impact on their child's education which may result from any requirement to quarantine or isolate upon return.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me and we will do all we can to support you.

Best wishes

Tijen Hassan

**Headteacher**