



Dear parents,

I hope that you have all had a restful summer and are looking forward to coming back to school. As you may be aware, the government has now issued new Covid-19 guidance for schools, in line with the removal of many restrictions throughout the country.

School re-opens on Thursday 2nd September 2021 for pupils. We will all be reverting back to the same start (8.45am) and finish times (3.15pm). For Nursery this will be 9am and 3pm.

The following changes will be in place, in line with the new guidance:

Bubble system: It will no longer be necessary to keep the children in bubbles. There will be no bubbles in school unless we need to re-introduce them as part of a contingency plan after a number of positive cases in school.

Contact tracing: Schools are no longer responsible for contact tracing although we will work alongside Public Health England and the Local Authority to assist however we can.

Self-isolation for children and young people: Children under the age of 18 years old are no longer 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 themselves or have a positive Covid-19 test result. As previously, we would request that pupils do not attend school if they are showing symptoms of Covid-19. We can also confirm that self-isolating students will still have access to robust and comprehensive remote learning opportunities.

Face coverings: Face coverings will no longer be mandatory for staff or visitors in any area of the school. Staff may still wear face coverings when seeing the children out. This is a personal choice and I ask that we all respect these decisions.

Asymptomatic testing: Staff will continue to test using LFD testing devices twice weekly until the end of September when this will be reviewed.

Even with the new guidance, we will also have outbreak management plans in place, as required by the government, to ensure that we are prepared to continue to operate if there is transmission of the virus in our school or the local community. These will mean that if the situation requires it, a bubble system or other measures may need to be temporarily reinstated in the future.

As ever, our priority is to ensure the health and safety of our pupils, staff and families. We will be continuing to encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene including regular hand washing, maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes and keeping occupied spaces well-ventilated.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office. We will do all we can to ease your concerns and support you as best we can.

Thank you once again for your support, understanding and patience last year. I have everything crossed for a much more normal year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mr John Turner
Head of School