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Head Teacher: Mr Stuart Day

6th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to welcome back our children and families at the beginning of this new academic year and look forward to inviting you into school as the year progresses.

As many of you will be aware, the Government announced the move to step 4 of the Covid roadmap on 19th July 2021. This move has resulted in a number of changes nationally and, as a school, we have had to amend our operations plan accordingly.

The main changes affecting school are as follow:

Positive Confirmed Cases

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- *they are fully vaccinated*
- *they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months*
- *they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial*
- *they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons*

Children and young people who attend an education or childcare setting and who have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend their setting as normal.

This means – If a child demonstrates symptoms of Covid-19 (no matter how mild), they should be kept at home, take a PCR test and only return when a negative result is received. Other members of the household do not need to isolate if any of the above criteria are met.

This also means – children/staff in classes where there has been a positive confirmed Covid-19 case will no longer need to isolate/be sent home as part of a 'bubble'.

Bubble Closures

Settings will continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak. If there is a substantial increase in the number of positive cases in a setting, the Department for Education may advise that school close individual class bubbles to help bring infection under control.

Contingency plans (sometimes called outbreak management plans) are already in place to help break chains of transmission and therefore minimise disruption to the school community.



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Control Measures

Although some measures have been eased, as a school we will continue to implement control measures that will minimise the likelihood of a significant outbreak. These measures include:

- *Ensuring good hygiene for everyone, through regular hand washing and sanitising*
- *Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes, with additional cleaning carried out throughout the school day*
- *Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated – school will also install carbon dioxide monitors to ensure ventilation is appropriate*
- *Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.*

Remote education

In the event of a localised outbreak/bubble closure, school will continue to provide a high-quality remote learning offer to pupils. This will follow the same format as that delivered during the spring term of 2021

The remote education provided will be equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school.

Everyday School Life

We recognise that the past 18 months have been difficult for all in our school community and many of you have missed out on important moments in your children's school experience, e.g. performances, working in class with your child etc. With easing of national measures, we have made the decision to re-introduce these events. However, this will be done in a controlled and measured way and will only take place if national guidance allows. Please look out for the events calendar following later this week.

We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support of our community and go into this new year with hope that some 'normality' will return for our children.

Should you have any questions or suggestions about the measures, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Stuart Day



Head Teacher