Friday 16th July

**September Arrangements (COVID19)**

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to you with further information regarding our arrangements for September 2021. This follows recent government announcements about the easing of Lockdown restrictions in schools.

In brief, the key changes which will come into place from September 2021 are:

**Bubbles**

From September 2021, children will not be placed in class bubbles. They will be able to mix freely with children from other year groups at break, lunch and other times of the school day. This means we no longer need to stagger break and lunch times, or start and finish times at the beginning and end of the school day. It also means that we can begin using communal areas and equipment once again, such as the school canteen, library, hall and outdoor play equipment. Because of the easing of bubble restrictions, children will have access to a wider range of school clubs, and we will be able to resume whole school assemblies.

**Start and Finish Times**

We will not be operating staggered start and finish times in September. In a return to pre-COVID 19 arrangements, children should arrive on site between 8.45am and 8.55am and make their way straight to their classrooms through the entrances adjacent to the playground. Children will begin the day with learning and mindfulness activities prior to registers at 9.00am.

The school day will end at 3.30pm for all classes. Parents should collect children from the school playground.

**School Trips**

We are very pleased that we can resume trips and residential visits from September. Information about any planned autumn term trips for your child’s class will be shared with you in September.

**Music Lessons**

We are also very pleased that we can once again offer instrumental music lessons for pupils in September. More information on music provision will follow soon.

**Parental Events**

We are very much looking forward to being able to welcome parents back into school for meetings and events. We have curriculum meetings planned within the first two weeks of the new term for parents to be able to meet their child’s new teachers- please see my end of term newsletter for further information.

**Face-Coverings**

There will be no requirement for face coverings to be worn by staff, visitors or parents when visiting the school, or when collecting or dropping off children.

**Close-Contacts**

From August 16th, adults who have been double-vaccinated and children under 18 are no longer required to self-isolate if they are close contacts of a positive case. This means that your child will no longer be asked to self-isolate if there is a confirmed positive case in his or her class.

**COVID-19 Controls**

Despite the easing of many restrictions in September, there will remain a number of control measures in place to reduce the risk of transmission:

\* Children with COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, should not attend school. Any child in school who presents with symptoms will be immediately sent home and will be instructed to take a PCR test.

\* We will continue to encourage children and staff to hand-sanitise on entry and exit and at regular intervals during the school day.

\* We will continue with the enhanced cleaning regimes, which have occurred throughout COVID-19.

\* We will ensure that classrooms and communal areas continue to be well-ventilated.

\* We will ensure that an Outbreak Management Plan is in place, in order to enable us to respond quickly and effectively to an outbreak in school.

Thank you for all your support and understanding throughout what has been an immensely challenging academic year for teachers, children and parents. We do hope that the autumn term will see a return to something that feels a little more normal for all of us! If you have any further questions or concerns about our arrangements for September, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very best wishes

C. Holmes

Conal Holmes

Headteacher