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16<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday the Department for Education (DfE) released guidance on the implications for schools when England enters Step 4 of the roadmap out of lockdown. Please find within this letter some contextual information specifically for our school, as well as a template letter direct from the DfE (attached).

- **The biggest implication is that we are no longer responsible for identifying close contacts.** This role will be taken on by NHS Test and Trace. This means that it is very unlikely that we will send home whole bubbles after 19 July. (Reception and Year 1 children who are currently self-isolating must continue to do so until 11.59pm Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July)
- We ask you to inform us if your child is symptomatic and needs to isolate, and if s/he subsequently tests positive. We will inform parents and carers if there is a confirmed positive case in their child's bubble.
- **Until 16 August children should stay at home for Covid-19 related reasons if:**
  - they or someone in their household is symptomatic;
  - they or someone in their household has tested positive with a PCR or LFD test;
  - they have been notified by NHS Test and Trace that they are a close contact – until 16 August when rules change and pupils no longer need to isolate.

The prevalence of Covid-19 in the community and in the country at the moment means that we will continue to:

- ask visiting adults to wear face coverings (if possible) when INSIDE a school building;
- maintain heightened cleaning procedures;
- continue to ensure regular hand washing;
- send children home to be tested if they present as symptomatic.

We are hopeful that we are nearly at the end of what has been a really difficult time. If anything changes, we will communicate with you as quickly as possible. At this point, we are planning to start the school year as normally as possible.

Thank you as always for all the support and understanding you have shown us. It is very much appreciated.

Warm wishes,

Joanna Redfern

Executive Head

