



9 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

## **RE: Latest government guidance – Step 4 of the government’s roadmap**

What a wonderful night of football on Wednesday evening and hopefully a wonderful weekend of sport, including the Wimbledon and the Euros final, to come!

On Monday, you will be aware the Government confirmed that it will proceed with Step 4 of further easing of restrictions from 19 July, which will include some changes for the operation of schools.

We have reflected at length on the changes, alongside the need in our school context to be as safe as can be, given the case numbers around us, both locally and nationally. In school we have seen a number of pupils, their families and staff members who have had to self-isolate as close contacts, alongside the confirmation of positive cases within the school community.

With this in mind, for the last week of term, we will still be retaining many of the procedures in our Covid Risk assessment, including staggered starts and finish times, along with limiting the mixing of our class bubbles. It makes sense to be vigilant and risk-aware in the final part of term, being mindful that many families will have arrangements to look forward to: holidays, weddings, birthday celebrations etc, later in July and August. It would be a shame for a notification from the NHS Covid app, or contact with someone infected to jeopardise all of this. We will maintain our hygiene principles of regular handwashing, cleaning of the school and equipment, as well as Lateral Flow Testing for staff.

From July 19, there is no longer a requirement for staff or visitors in schools to wear face masks. To this end we will not be asking parents and carers to wear a face covering when dropping off or picking up their children. We recognise that both staff and parents/carers may wish to continue wearing them, and are recommending that staff continue to do so where they cannot maintain a 2M distance.

We will continue to follow public health advice in the event of a positive case being identified, and children or staff should not come to school if they have symptoms or have had a positive test result.

From September we know that the word ‘bubble’ will revert to its usual usage. As always, we await further, final guidance for schools, but the latest document reflects a welcome return to a more usual running of the school, underpinned by Lateral Flow testing of staff, and those with symptoms, along with continued awareness of hygiene. As we know, the virus will not have gone away, and schools will be learning how to live with it and limit its impact on the school community.

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I would like to thank you for your immense support for the staff and our school community. The pandemic has tested us all, and we have not been found wanting. There has been learning for us all whilst dealing with the challenges this time has posed for us as individuals and our families. The school holidays are around the corner. Our aim is for them to be enjoyed; we know they will be very much needed by all.

We will update you with regard to arrangements for September in due course and in the meantime have a wonderful weekend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Lindsay Fry'.

Lindsay Fry  
Head of School