



15 June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Latest government guidance – delay in lifting restrictions

As you will have heard, on Monday 14 June this week the Prime Minister announced a 4-week pause to the further lifting of Covid restrictions. Previously, the government was aiming to move to Step 4 of the roadmap on 21 June, but due to the increase of cases caused by the new Delta variant across the country, it is now expected that further lifting of restrictions in England will take place on 19 July.

We have received updated guidance from the Department for Education which states: *“At a time when further easing of restrictions has been paused, the current system of controls should continue to be implemented in education and childcare settings. This means settings should encourage staff [...] to continue to test weekly, and student bubbles [...] should stay in place. We will update schools, colleges and early years settings on plans for Step 4 as soon as possible.”*

There have been no significant changes in the main guidance for primary schools, so we will therefore continue to maintain our current approaches and risk mitigation measures as outlined in each school’s risk assessment.

There has been no change to the guidance around the mixing of class/year group bubbles, staggered starts/pick-ups or the requirement to continue to ensure regular robust hygiene procedures are in place.

Our schools had very much hoped that the easing of restrictions would allow them to get back to normal end of term arrangements, but are having to reflect on their plans and the latest guidance to see what is possible under the extended ‘Step 3’ restrictions. Your school will be in contact with you over the coming weeks to outline their plans for their adjusted end of term arrangements.

Thanks again for your support and patience as we continue to be guided by the latest government advice and information – we will continue to update you as further guidance regarding the lifting of restrictions is published.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Passmore', written in a cursive style.

James Passmore
Chief Executive Officer
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