



08 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

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

As you will have heard, on Monday 5 July this week the Prime Minister set out the details of Step 4 of the roadmap, as the country transitions out of lockdown. Subject to a final review of the data next week, legal restrictions are forecast to end nationally on Monday 19 July.

We have received updated guidance from the Department for Education which sets out how the restrictions in schools can begin to be lifted. The guidance includes the following:

“At Step 4 we [the Department for Education] will no longer recommend that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups (‘bubbles’). When we proceed to Step 4, this means that bubbles will not be used for any summer provision (for example, summer schools) or in schools from the autumn term. If your school is still open at Step 4, you may wish to continue with these measures until the end of your summer term.”

We have reviewed the rising number of covid cases locally and across Wiltshire, and considered carefully the impact recent cases have had on our schools over the last few weeks. In line with the guidance above, we have taken the decision to continue to maintain our current approaches and risk mitigation measures for the last week of the summer term. As a result, we will continue to operate class/year group bubbles, staggered starts/pick-ups, regular robust hygiene routines and keeping occupied spaces well-ventilated in the last week of term. This decision is intended to reduce the potential transmission of the virus as much as possible in the last week of term, to limit the number of families and staff needing to isolate over the summer holidays.

Assuming the government do move to Step 4, you will no longer be required to wear a face-covering when dropping off/picking up children from 19 July, but can of course continue to do so if you wish. Likewise, the wearing of face coverings for staff and visitors to schools is no longer a government recommendation from 19 July, but people can, of course, do so if they wish.

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

In September (assuming government advice does not change over the holidays), all covid restrictions will be lifted and we will return to school ‘as normal’, gradually reintroducing business as usual to avoid overwhelming the children, many of whom will now be quite used to the restricted version of school life!

I would like to extend a huge thank you to all the staff working across our schools, who have managed with great professionalism, resilience and dedication, a very challenging set of circumstances this year. I know how much parents, carers, governors, trustees and families have truly appreciated the work they have done, and continue to do.

With ever changing guidance and shifting requirements, I appreciate how difficult this year has been for all of us – we've tried to do our very best at managing the situation and hopefully bringing a sense of calm and consistency in our communication and actions.

I do so hope you will all be able to find time for a proper break over the summer and that we can get back to normal operation next academic year! Thank you so much for your support – it is very much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Passmore', is positioned above the typed name.

James Passmore
Chief Executive Officer
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