



Unit 20,
St Austell Business Park,
St Austell,
Cornwall, PL25 4FD

8th July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

On behalf of the Aspire Academy Trust, I must first offer my heartfelt thanks to staff, parents and children who have experienced such a challenging and disruptive academic year and a half.

On Tuesday 6th July, the government announced 'step four' of lockdown easing, however in the words of Education Secretary Gavin Williamson, this "does not mean the end of the pandemic," rather it marks the beginning of a new phase of COVID-19 management for our schools and wider communities. We are entering a new phase where we all must continue to play our part in ensuring we keep ourselves, and each other, safe.

On Monday 19th July, key restrictions in education are to be lifted. However, for the last few days of term, and in light of the current high infection rate in Cornwall, our academies will retain the bubble system indoors to keep our children and staff as safe as possible. Children will be able to mix outside with friends at breaktimes and lunchtime. Face coverings will no longer be advised for staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas and no longer be recommended to be worn on dedicated transport to and from school.

The existing staggered drop off/pick up procedures will remain in place for the remainder of the term as at this late stage to change arrangements may inadvertently create confusion and therefore pose health and safety risks with traffic flow/parking and young children.

Any changes to planned activities and/or events during the last week of term will be communicated to you separately by your child(ren)'s academy.

Please be aware that should there be a local outbreak, bubbles, and other protective measures, may be reintroduced for a fixed time period, in line with PHE guidance.

From Monday 19th July, education settings will not be expected to undertake contact tracing and NHS Test and Trace takes over. This means that from 23:59 on Sunday 18th July, parents/carers will not be required to fill out the Aspire out-of-hours reporting form at www.aspireacademytrust.org/coronavirus. However, so our Health & Safety team can continue to monitor COVID-19 rates across the Trust, **a positive PCR result within your household should still be reported ASAP to your child(ren)'s school via telephone or email (during school opening hours only).**



From Monday 16th August, children under the age of 18 years will no longer be required to self-isolate if you are contacted by NHS Test and Trace to confirm they have been a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Please take a PCR test if advised to do so and remember, PHE do **not** recommend the use of LFD tests on children under the age of 11 years.

There is no need for asymptomatic testing in primary age pupils over the summer period.

From Monday 19th July, children should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine after a summer holiday abroad). If anyone in an Aspire academy develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home public health advice should be followed.

Despite the lifting of these restrictions, the Trust remains vigilant and alert to the ongoing threat of COVID-19 infection to our school communities. Robust health and safety measures will remain in place in every Aspire academy for the autumn term. This includes frequent handwashing, regular hygiene reminders throughout the school day (particularly the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach) and thorough whole school cleaning procedures at the end of each day.

While we welcome a return to (almost) normality, we must all continue to follow public health advice and stay alert. For information, and updated guidance, please visit:

www.aspireacademytrust.org/coronavirus

On behalf of the Aspire Academy Trust, I wish you all a wonderfully happy and safe summer with your children and see you in September.

Warm wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V. Bragg".

Mrs V Bragg
Aspire CEO