



# Ditton Primary School

Liverpool Road, Widnes, Halton WA8 7HD



Part of Warrington Primary Academy Trust | Together We Forge Our Tomorrows

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021

## Covid-19 Public Health Guidelines for Summer Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I mentioned in the newsletter last week, we were awaiting guidance from the Local Authority regarding the usual activities that take place in schools at the end of the summer term. We have now received some guidance from Public Health so we can explain how this will affect our plans.

### Sports Days

The guidance from Public Health states that sporting events cannot take place between different schools or between different bubbles. The guidance also states that spectators **should not** be allowed to attend school sports days.

I know this will be disappointing for parents and carers as I know this is an event that is well attended and eagerly anticipated. We will be holding a version of sports day within the individual bubbles and will post photographs and video clips on our school website and twitter page. We want to allow the children the experience of competing even though parents will not be there.

We will send more information out about when your child's sports day is on in the newsletter this week.

### Trips and Visits

We have been advised that school trips should not take place this summer. This includes both indoor and outdoor venues in Halton and in other areas across the North West and beyond.

### Transition arrangements

Usually, we arrange for children starting reception class in September to visit for short periods in the summer term. In accordance with Public Health guidelines this will not be happening this term during school hours. We are organising virtual tours and introductions and further details of this will be sent out in due course.

We are waiting for more information from high schools about their transition plans for our Year 6 pupils as the same guidance affects these arrangements; the vast majority of children will not be able to take part in transition during normal school hours. Once we get information from the high schools we will ensure that parents are aware.

At the moment, the guidance for in school transition arrangements are not affected. This means that before the end of term your child should get the opportunity to meet their new class teacher. This will occur following our Covid risk assessment control measures to ensure that any risk is minimised.

### Leavers' Events

We did contact Year 6 parents to explain that the Leavers' assemblies this year would be streamed as guidance is clear that schools should not allow visitors to leavers' events. I know this is particularly disappointing for our Year 6 families and we would have loved to be able to celebrate and reminisce about the years your child has been a part of the Ditton family. We have arranged to stream these assemblies live on the final morning of term.





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The Director of Public Health acknowledged that this guidance will lead to disappointment for some, but the aim of these measures is to control rising case numbers and to give schools the best possible opportunity to return to some normality in the next school year.

The following recommendations are still in place for all families:

- **Follow national advice** and restrictions around mixing with others and do this as safely as possible. Meeting outside is still safest.
- **Continue twice weekly rapid testing** for COVID-19. This is for families, staff and secondary school and college students. Parents of primary aged children may also choose for their children to participate in these tests using our test centres or home tests. Additional information can be found here: [No symptoms COVID-19 testing \(halton.gov.uk\)](https://www.halton.gov.uk/no-symptoms-covid-19-testing)
- **Anyone with a positive rapid lateral flow test should self-isolate with their household and get a PCR test** (that is sent to the lab) to confirm the result. These must be booked online at <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>
- **Testing results should be reported** via the NHS online reporting system. Results should also be reported to school.
- **Remember that if you (or your child) have been in contact with someone with COVID-19, you will need to isolate for ten days, regardless of any test results you might get.**
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If the guidance changes before the end of term we will, of course, inform parents and make any adjustments possible to the plans that are in place.

Many thanks for your continued understanding in these unprecedented times,

Mrs J Pyne

Head of School