

12th May 2021

Dear Parents,

On Monday evening the Government confirmed that England is on track for the next step of the road-map to be implemented on Monday May 17th. At that point six people or two households will be able to mix indoors, so play-dates will be once again permitted, whilst observing the rule of six people indoors. Government advice is that 'it remains important to continue to minimise mixing between children where possible'. Outdoors larger groups up to 30 will be allowed, so the park becomes less of a risk factor. I have been asked to draw to your attention that you should be limiting your use of out-of-school providers, and ideally limit this to one activity in order to minimise risk as far as possible.

You may wish to read the Government advice at -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

I also need to bring to your attention that I remain not permitted to authorise holiday during term time except in very exceptional circumstances. In addition, if you are planning to travel outside the UK this year, parents are expected to ensure that any quarantine requirements on the return do not impact on their children's education.

Yesterday the Department for Education issued the latest (78 page) updated Guidance for Schools document which informed us that at this time there are to be no changes to the day to day operation of Primary Schools, as we communicated to you yesterday afternoon. All the Systems of Control which are included in our Risk Assessment are still required, as is the importance of maintaining social distance where possible within classes and at least two metres at all times between classes.

I would appreciate your support in highlighting to your children that whilst it may be appropriate to share a hug in your family group or with very close friends whom you see often, this is still not permitted in the school environment.

As I mentioned in the newsletter last week, schools have been instructed by the Government to address as a priority the impact of the pandemic, with the associated lockdowns and periods of remote learning, on the children's learning and progress. This, coupled with the uncertainty around the future relaxation of restrictions due to new variants being brought into the country, has meant that we have had to consider most carefully traditional summer term activities (which take considerable advance planning). We have to consider both the obligations around learning and the well-being and safety of the children and adults.

Therefore, as I stated, after much reflection and thought this year there will be no KS2/Y6 production. The Guidance issued yesterday regarding the safety measures for any production confirms that this is not practical in our setting. We do feel that it is particularly important for our Y6 children to ensure that they feel very well prepared for the next stage of their education as they move on to secondary school in September, and that they remain well.

I would like to reiterate that all children will take part in inter-House class competition in lieu of a more traditional Sports Day this year. Given the on-going

requirement to keep classes two metres apart we are not able to hold any mixed class events, nor is it advisable to have classes cheering for the children from another class who are in their House. Schools are still expected to minimise visitors to the site at all times, which means that – for this year – it would be inappropriate for us to permit parents to come and observe. We will, of course, make the class competition as much fun as possible and all children will participate.

As you will know, at all times we have followed and implemented the instruction from the Department for Education and the advice of Public Health. The staff and visiting teachers have engaged with the requirement to test twice weekly. To date, thankfully, we have been very fortunate within the school community to have had minimum occurrence of Covid-19. I thank all those families who have supported us in this, and have helped to keep everyone as safe as possible. I make no apology for this being a priority for the school.

The next date for any change is published as June 21st and will again be dependent on the data at the time. Given that only twenty-three days of term fall after that date, and I am sure that we would all like to be healthy to hopefully take a break over the summer, it is not our intention to mix classes prior to the end of term. Therefore, the staggers currently in place at the beginning and end of the day will remain in place. After having this in place for four terms now, I do hope that by September we may be permitted to return to something which more closely resembles pre-pandemic school.

Thank you for your support as we move through the summer term. As information is released and changes recommended, we will, of course, keep you informed in a timely manner.

Mrs K. Tamlyn
Head Teacher