

13.9.21

Dear parents and carers,

First of all, I hope that all members of our School Community have had a lovely summer break. This letter sets out the arrangements for the beginning of the autumn term in line with the current government and DfE Guidance for schools. School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school. The guidance has changed to better support this.

Control measures and arrangements

Step 4 of the government's roadmap marked a new phase in the government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk. As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education.

The DfE have produced a guide for parents, and the table below sets out the main changes in our school from September 2021.

Area	Details
Bubbles	There is no need to arrange classes in bubbles from September 2021. Activities involving pupils from different classes can happen. Travel Assist will not be transporting pupils in 'bubbles' This is only to be used when instructed in relation to the school management plan – see attached or website for details.
Uniform	Normal school uniform for pupils
Face coverings/masks	Face coverings are no longer compulsory for staff and either in classrooms or in communal areas. The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks will remain available to our staff should they chose to continue to wear them. • Travel Assist is responsible for school transport and therefore they will manage the issue of masks for Pupil Guides and Drivers.
Visitors	All visitors to school are to be pre-arranged and therefore parents/carers will need to make an appointment via the school office to see a member of staff where necessary.

<p>Close contacts</p>	<p>DfE guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. School may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases • Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ they are fully vaccinated ✓ they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months ✓ they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial ✓ they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons • Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so. • Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal. They do not need to wear a face covering within the school, but it is expected and recommended that these are worn when travelling on public or dedicated transport. • 18-year-olds will be treated in the same way as children until 6 months after their 18th birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated. At which point, they will be subject to the same rules as adults and so if they choose not to get vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact.
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Self- isolation	Please see latest NHS guidance https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/
Swimming and Off-site activities	These activities will resume during the autumn half term.
Travel and quarantine	<p>Anyone travelling to England must adhere to travel legislation, details of which are set out in government travel advice. Those aged 11 to 17 need proof of a negative COVID-19 test to travel to England (children aged 10 and under are exempt from this) and those aged 5 to 17 must take a COVID-19 travel test on or before day 2.</p> <p>More information is provided in the government's quarantine and testing guidance. Additional guidance has been issued on the quarantine arrangements for boarding school pupils travelling from red-list countries to attend a boarding school in England</p> <p>The Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel and Operator Liability) (England) Regulations 2021 (legislation.gov.uk)</p> <p>Red, amber, green lists: check the rules for travel to England from abroad - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p> <p>Quarantine and testing if you've been in an amber list country - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p>

Thank you for your ongoing support, we look forward to a full and exciting year, working together.

Your sincerely,

Laura Slinn
Executive Headteacher