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## Letter to parents regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) measures from September

31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

### RE: Changes to coronavirus (COVID-19) measures from September

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you have all had a lovely summer break. We are looking forward to welcoming you all back to school on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Just a reminder that the gates will open from 8:30am and will close at 8:40am, allowing a ten-minute interval for all children to arrive at school. Collection time is 2:50pm. Children should be collected from their classroom doors unless they have permission to walk home.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting the school's fight against coronavirus last year and for working with us through what has been a challenging time for everyone. We are incredibly grateful for your participation and understanding.

In line with the government's roadmap out of lockdown, many control measures ceased to be legal requirements on 19 July. This letter outlines our plans for your child's return to school on 2<sup>nd</sup> September – by working together we can continue to keep everyone safe and reduce the spread of coronavirus.

### Testing and self-isolation

The school is no longer responsible for Test and Trace close contact tracing in the Autumn term. This will be taken over by the NHS Test and Trace service, who will inform your child if they have been in close contact with a positive case and advise them to take a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. Your child will not need to self-isolate and can attend school as usual, unless the PCR test returns a positive result.

The school will continue to have a role in working with local health protection teams (HPTs) in the case of a local outbreak. If there is an outbreak in the school, the NHS will contact the school and a Director of Public Health could advise us to temporarily reintroduce control measures – we will inform you as soon as possible if this applies.

If your child receives a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result, they should self-isolate in line with the [stay-at-home guidance](#). They will also need to get a free PCR test to confirm if they have coronavirus; whilst awaiting

the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within two days of the positive LFD test, and is negative, it overrides the LFD test result and your child can return to school, as long as they have not experienced coronavirus symptoms for 48 hours prior to their return.

### **End of staggered start and pick up times**

The staggering of start and pick up times for different year groups will no longer be in place from the Autumn term. All pupils will be able to arrive at school between 8:30am and 8:40am and school will end at 2:50pm each day.

### **Mixing and bubbles**

'Bubbles' will no longer be implemented within the school. Alongside enabling flexibility in the delivery of curriculum, the lifting of this restriction also allows assemblies and lunches to resume as normal.

Your child will not need to adhere to social distancing rules in communal areas and classrooms. Pupils will be able to sit in groups in the classroom and at lunchtime and the need to sit facing forwards in KS2 will also no longer be in place.

To prepare for the event that cases rise in the local area, the school has created contingency plans to cover the possibility that it may become necessary to reintroduce bubbles for a temporary period in order to reduce mixing between groups.

### **Cleaning and sanitary procedures**

We will put in place and maintain an appropriate cleaning schedule. This will include the regular cleaning of areas and equipment with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces. Classroom resources, e.g. toys and maths equipment will also be cleaned regularly.

Frequent and thorough hand washing will be encouraged. We will continue to ensure that your child cleans their hands regularly with soap and water or hand sanitiser. We will also continue to help those with complex needs to clean their hands properly.

### **Breakfast club, Chill club and After-School clubs**

You will be able to access wraparound and extracurricular provision for your child without any restrictions on the reasons for which they may attend. Please ensure that you continue to book ahead using the online booking system to ensure a place is available for your child. Details of the after-school clubs programme will be forwarded later this week. All our wraparound and extracurricular provision will be risk assessed and follow the same procedures as regular lessons.

### **Remote learning**

We will ensure remote education plans are in place in the event your child has to self-isolate. While attendance is mandatory, high-quality remote learning will be provided for pupils who are following clinical or government guidance to stay at home, e.g. where they are self-isolating. All pupils who are not physically unwell will be given access to remote education as soon as reasonably practicable.

If you have any questions regarding the information outlined in this letter, please do contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Torrance', written in a cursive style.

Lynn Torrance  
Headteacher