

4th February 2022

Dear School Community,

Following review of the DfE's document: Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak which was updated on 22nd January 2022, we are delighted to announce that from Monday 7th February, the following COVID safety protocols will be removed at school:

Application of hand sanitiser at the gate/office

We will no longer be asking children and visitors to use hand sanitiser upon entry to and departure from the school. Teachers will however continue to ensure that all children, pupils and students regularly wash their hands throughout the school day as part of our ongoing hygiene protocols.

Bubbles

There is now no need to continue with the 'bubble' system and our school will therefore 'return to wholeness' with immediate effect. This will allow events such as plays, performances, festivals and assemblies to take place for all children, pupils and students, staff and parents.... yippee!

Face coverings for visitors to the school

We no longer need to ask visitors including parents to wear face coverings when coming to school. Of course, if you wish to wear a face covering, you are welcome to do so.

Social distancing

There is no longer a need to ask parents or staff to remain physically distant from each other. However, as feelings within our community are varied, we would ask that all members continue to show respect and consideration around the subject of physical distancing.

What does this mean?

The fantastic news is that with COVID safety rules being relaxed, we can recommence all group events including plays, presentations, parent evenings, festivals, fundraising including our much loved Fairs, Work Days, community events and more. We will need to find new ways to hold some of these events but we are fully committed to rebuilding our wonderful community.

What is not changing?

Some changes were made to school policy and procedure which cannot so easily be undone, not least of all because as the world has changed, so too has our awareness around safeguarding and health and safety. As such, we will now enter into a period of consideration and consultation in relation to:

- Drop off and collection times - staggered timings, parents coming onsite, vehicle drop off system, car park safety, and
- Physical contact - reinstating hand shaking for example when pupils enter school each day.

As we move through this process, we will communicate further with parents and children, pupils and students to ensure we find a solution which balances the needs of the community with our

safeguarding and health and safety obligations.

Testing

We are obliged to ask all students over the age of 11 to continue with regular (twice weekly) asymptomatic testing (test kits can be collected from the school office) and for visitors including parents to take an LFD test before coming onsite for meetings, performances etc.

Vaccination

The Government also directs schools to encourage all school staff and eligible pupils to take up the offer of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Thank you for your continued support in these matters. I deeply appreciate the generosity of your kind cooperation throughout this global event.

Sending warmth,

Kaycee Fordham
H&S Manager