



St Swithun's C of E Primary Academy



Grove Street
Retford
Nottinghamshire
DN22 6LD

Executive Headteacher Mrs Helen Thomas
Deputy Head Mrs Debbie Preece
Telephone 01777 702043
Foundation Stage 01777 702043

14/07/21

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will be aware, the government has now confirmed that it will be moving to 'step 4' of its covid-19 roadmap from 19th July.

As a result, new guidance for schools has been published by the Department for Education and Public Health England. This latest guidance will have implications for arrangements in school from September. You can read it in full at the DfE website or by following this link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/999689/Schools_guidance_Step_4_update_FINAL.pdf

Contact tracing and self isolation:

As from 19th July the **responsibility for contact tracing when a pupil tests positive for covid will pass from the school to NHS Test and Trace**. This means that it will no longer be the school that informs parents when children need to self-isolate.

The government has also said that from 16th August, children will no longer be required to automatically self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive covid-19 case. Instead, you may be advised to take your child for a PCR test if they have been deemed to be in close contact with a positive case.

It is important to note that any child who receives a positive PCR test will still be expected to isolate for 10 days and will not be able to attend school during that period. It is also important that you inform school as soon as possible should this occur.

The new guidance is clear that enhanced cleaning, hand hygiene and good ventilation should all remain in place next term and we will ensure that these remain a key part of our ongoing covid safety measures now and next term.

Keeping our community safe:

I am very aware that there will be a wide range of views among families regarding these latest government announcements. As you will understand, as a school we are expected to have due regard for this new national guidance, as well as the additional local guidance provided to us by [insert LA here]. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your ongoing support as we continue to navigate this challenging situation.

In addition to following national guidance, as required by law, we have carried out specific risk assessments to take into account the unique nature of our school and the school community. As a result of these risk assessments we have identified several additional measures that we will keep in place for the safety of pupils next term. These include [insert any measures here, eg continued use of one-way systems, continued use of bubbles for the start of the new term]. We believe that these measures will help to continue to keep all members of our community as safe as possible, whilst having no major impact on pupils' educational experience. These will remain under regular review as we move into the new term.

I also want to reassure you that we have already developed comprehensive contingency plans for next year should we either have an increase of covid-19 cases in the school or an increase of cases in the local community. Should either of these occur, we will be in immediate contact with the local public health team and will act on their advice without delay. We all hope this won't be necessary, but should it occur we may be told to bring back some more of the safety measures that have been in place previously. I will of course keep you informed should that occur.

The safety and well-being of all our pupils remains our number one priority and should any parent have particular specific concerns about their child ahead of next year, please do not hesitate to get in contact with the school and a member of the team will be only too pleased to discuss these with you.

Warm wishes,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Helen Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs Helen Thomas

