



7th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may have seen or read the announcement by Gavin Williamson, the Secretary of State for Education. Mr Williamson told parliament that “key restrictions” would be dropped for schools from Step 4 of England’s “roadmap” out of lockdown, planned for 19 July.

The removal of key restrictions means:

- there is no requirement for ‘bubbles’ within schools
- there is no requirement for staggered starts or ends to the school day
- we can resume whole school assemblies/collective worship
- face coverings for staff are not needed in communal areas

He also identified that from August 16th:

- under 18s do not need to self-isolate if they have been in ‘close contact’ with a positive COVID case, meaning pupils do not need to be sent home if a classmate/staff member tests positive
- Schools do not need to do track and trace

Schools are still asked to:

- continue the system of both hand hygiene and ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’
- continue a cleaning regime in classrooms of at least twice per day
- continue providing ventilated classrooms
- provide remote education for those isolating

The Government also made it clear that schools who do not finish on the 19th July can continue to put restrictions in place for the extra week up to Summer break. As a school, we will be keeping these restrictions in terms of ‘bubbles’, staggered starts and ends to the school day, as well as our lunchtime and playtime organisation. As you will understand, there is a significant amount of organisation needed to bring this into place, and we feel it would be prudent to ensure this is done properly in readiness for September.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Dunne