

Thursday 15th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Monday 12th July, the Prime Minister announced the Government's proposals for the next stage (stage-4) of relaxing restrictions on society in their response to the Covid-19 pandemic. As such, the restrictions on how we operate our schools, particularly from the start of the new term in September, will be hugely relaxed.

The changes from the start of next term will be:

- Adults who have had both vaccination doses will not need to self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive (comes in to force from August 16).
- Pupils under the age of 18 will not need to self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive (comes in to force from August 16).
- Schools will no longer be required to carry out contact tracing if a pupil or member of staff tests positive. The NHS will take over that role.
- All secondary pupils will be required to have 2 on-site lateral flow tests, 3 to 5 days apart, at the start of the new term. After that they should carry out twice weekly tests at home until the end of September when the policy will be reviewed.
- Staff will be requested to undertake twice-weekly tests at home, whenever they are going to be in a school, until the end of September when the policy will be reviewed.
- Any member of staff or pupil developing Covid-19 symptoms will be required to stay at home and follow the Public Health advice.

In school our priority throughout the pandemic has been to keep all our pupils and staff safe. Despite the easing of national restrictions from 19th July, given that we are currently in a third wave of the virus, we have taken the decision to make minimal changes in school prior to the summer holidays. From 19th July, the wearing of a face covering is no longer a legal requirement in England. We have taken the decision, however, to continue to recommend staff, visitors and secondary age pupils to continue to wear a face covering as they would

currently. Furthermore, until the end of term we will continue to operate the principle of bubbles as far as practicable.

Covid-19 is not going to go away. However, thanks to the vaccine programme in the UK we may now be able to live with it. In other words, because of the vaccine, only a very small proportion of people catching the disease will become seriously ill because of it and it is highly unlikely that any of these people will be our children. The risks become similar to other diseases in society that we have already learned to live with. This is what we all hope for, however, as we return to a more normal way of learning in school, we still have to be cautious for a little while longer. We believe that our approach for the rest of this term will help to ensure that our schools remain safe places of learning.

Our Covid-19 policy can be found on our website: [Covid-19 | Reach South](#)

I would like to thank all our parents, carers and pupils for all their efforts in helping us all to stay safe. I hope that everyone will enjoy a well-deserved break this summer and be optimistic about returning to a greater normality in the new academic year.

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Ashton'.

Dean Ashton
Chief Executive Officer