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Friday 9th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well.

As you may be aware, the Government via the Department for Education, has now issued new COVID-19 guidance for schools effective from Monday 19th July 2021. I am writing to you today to provide an update on what this means for your child/children for the remainder of the school year, to share arrangements for summer school provision and the return to school in September, should these plans go ahead.

As the last day of school is 22nd July, in line with guidance we will have the same bubble system and COVID-19 risk assessment measures in place for the remainder of this school year. This will mean that, unfortunately, parents will continue to be unable to attend Sports' Day or any end of term performances or assemblies. These measures apply to all Primary Schools across the Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust.

After the end of summer term, the following changes will be in place, in line with the new guidance:

- **Bubble system:** It will no longer be necessary to keep children in bubbles. This means that, if your child will be taking part in any summer provision, such as summer schools or activity camps, they will not be in bubbles. It also means that there will no longer be a bubble system when we return to school in September for the start of the new academic year, as things currently stand.
- **Self-isolation for children and young people:** From Monday 16th August, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, they will only need to self-isolate if they have COVID-19 symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test result.
- **Face coverings:** Face coverings will no longer be advised for staff and essential visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. From Step 4, face coverings are also no longer recommended to be worn on dedicated transport to school and are no longer legally required on public transport.



Please see the full [guidance](#) for further details.

Although there will be changes as part of the easing of restrictions, as a school we will have outbreak management plans in place, as required by the Government, to ensure we are prepared to continue to operate if there is transmission of the virus in our school or the local community. These will mean that, if the situation requires it, a bubble system or other measures may need to be temporarily reinstated in the future, and we must stress that the safety measures in place will be continually reviewed and assessed in accordance with Government and local guidance.

As has been the case throughout the pandemic, ensuring the health and safety of our children, staff and the community is our top priority. As such, we will be continuing to encourage good hygiene including regular handwashing, maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes, keeping occupied spaces well ventilated and following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

As was the case at the start of the pandemic when we had to adjust to a new way of life, this new change again may inevitably create some uncertainty as we all adapt. However, we will continue to work closely together as a school community to ensure the best outcomes for children, staff and our wider community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact or speak to me at the school gate and we will do all we can to support you.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Marvin



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