



20 July 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers

As we approach the last few days of a very challenging year we would like to thank you for your unwavering support. Staggered starts, constantly washing hands, bubbles and the need to stay in one area has succeeded in keeping the infection rate down but hasn't been a lot of fun, we know.

As all of our Heads would agree, your support with home learning has been legendary and we pray that you are not subjected to too much more!

Despite the massive rise in infections just about everywhere in the UK as we know restrictions are easing. In our trust, we are all hoping for and preparing for normality when we return following the summer holiday – so therefore no staggered starts, bubbles and pupils moving around school freely as before.

We will write to you again during the last week of the holiday either to confirm a return to 'normality' or to reluctantly explain if more restrictions are needed.

There has been a lot of information in the national media concerning the rollout of the Pfizer vaccine to secondary school pupils. Some countries are actively engaged in this whereas others including the UK are not. As was stated by ministers yesterday, only vulnerable pupils or those who live with a vulnerable person will be offered the vaccine. If your daughter/son is to receive the vaccine, you will be contacted directly by NHS.

With effect from yesterday, isolation will be determined by NHS track and trace. This burden has now been removed from schools.

Although the Government information concerning testing is sketchy at best, hopefully there will be more available at the end of the summer holiday. We will let you know at that stage.

For the 2021/22 flu season, the flu vaccination programme that already includes all children in primary school will be expanded to children in secondary school. Students in years 7 to 11 will now be offered flu vaccination this autumn term. This significant expansion in the programme is part of the government's wider winter planning to reduce flu levels in the population, and therefore the potential impact on the NHS, when we are likely to see both flu and COVID-19 in circulation.

We would like to wish you a great summer holiday.

Nikki King CBE and Andy Reese CEO

