14th May 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Good afternoon, I hope this letter finds you all well.

As I write Boris Johnson has confirmed that step three of England’s roadmap out of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions can proceed on schedule. I don’t know about you, but I am certainly looking forward to having my family to stay, enjoying a meal out with friends, inside! and hugging again.

So, what do the changes mean for school?

We have reviewed and updated our COVID-19 safe working risk assessment.

The main differences are:

Pupils, within the same phase may now play together outside though staff are to maintain social distancing. This means that the barriers dividing the playground will be removed.

There will be some movement of staff across bubbles to meet an operational need. Those staff will need to be extra vigilant about hand hygiene and try to maintain social distance from other staff.

Current lunchtime arrangement will continue though Midday Supervisors will be able to cover more than one class over lunchtime. (They will have the same classes each day and wear fresh PPA for each class.)

Senior age pupils no longer need to wear masks in class. Staff and those pupils that are capable should still wear a face covering in communal areas. All visitors into school must continue to wear a mask.

Parents coming onto the school site to collect children will continue to be asked to wear a face covering, at this time.

As a community it is important we still follow all the other safety measure that are in place. From an operational and well-being, as well as a safety point of view it is also important that we keep mixing indoors to a minimum to limit the number of people who would need to isolate in the instance of a positive case. This means that class bubbles will continue, in side.

Twice weekly testing, for our senior pupils already testing, is still a requirement, something that is likely to continue in schools from September. Results must be recorded through the Government website and any positive cases reported immediately to school.

We will be focusing on transition, after the half term. You will have been contacted by class staff so will know whether your child is moving up in September. We are not planning pupil movement into their new class though of course now that they will have more chance to mix outside they will get the chance to play with new classmates. Our experience has been that pupils do manage the transition well without too much worry. Teachers will be meeting with class teams to ensure that there is a clear handover of pupil information to ensure provision is in place from day one. Finally decisions, regarding placement of support staff is due to be completed by the beginning of next half term. We have a number of interviews to complete before this can be done.

Talking of interviews, these will be taking place for the substantive Headteacher post next week. It is hoped that the governors will be able to confirm the appointment by the end of term.

Our new school communication platform – ClassDojo is proving popular with you all, we have seen a significant increase in the levels of communication with everyone sharing what’s being learned in the classroom home through photos, videos, and messages. We are currently exploring how we can best link the Residence and Jayne Duke so that information can be shared with all relevant parties. Thanks for bearing with us; we will continue to use the diaries to ensure that you get to hear news from the Residence.

**Plans for School events**;

We are hopeful we can move forward with plans to hold some school events that parents can be invited to join.

* There is to be an Information Day on 16th June. This will be held outside and will be for parents/carers of our year 10 – 14 pupils.
* Sixth form Prom - July: Invitations will go out to all 6th form students and their parents. End of term awards will be presented that evening.
* End of Term Awards for upper and lower school – These will be held, restrictions permitting during the last week of term. Parents of winners will be invited to attend an award assembly. There will be an afternoon of ‘fun and games’ for the children afterwards.
* Sports Day – we are looking to have Sports Day in September, this way we are sure that we will be able to invite all to come and join in. Fingers crossed for a warm September.
* Driffield Show – Driffield show is running over two days this year and we are planning to have a small 6th form run, Enterprise stand. We will not be taking classes this year but if you would like to take your child that will be approved.

**Holidays:**

As restrictions begin to lift, we know some families may be looking to take holidays during term time. As usual, parents should endeavour to plan holidays around school breaks and avoid seeking permission to take your child out of school. If this is not possible you will need to contact the office for an ‘Absence from school for exceptional circumstances’ form.

As we come to the end of the summer term we are preparing ourselves to say goodbye to a longstanding member of our teaching staff. Libby Grant has finally decided it’s time to retire after 38ish! years at the school. There will be a collection tin in the office if you would like to contribute towards her leaving gift.

Enjoy the weekend,

Best wishes

