



Dorchester Primary School

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Deputy Head – Mrs N. Van Der Walt BA (Hons), PGCE



Wednesday 25th August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I hope that you and your families have enjoyed the summer break. Despite the promise of glorious summer weather, it appears that was short-lived.

I am writing to update you on some changes that will come into effect upon children's return to school in September, in line with the current Government guidance – some of which you may already be aware of.

Bubbles

Children will no longer be required to remain in 'bubbles' and will be free to mix with children from other classes. In addition, we will resume whole-school assemblies and celebration assembly (more to follow in this in the new term). Some of the routines we adopted as a result of COVID-19, have been surprisingly effective and we will continue with these – particularly our lunchtime routine.

In line with our own risk-assessment, in extreme circumstances, we may need to revert to 'bubbles' but this will be done in consultation with the local Public Health team.

Tracing close contacts and isolation

Schools are no longer responsible for contact tracing and therefore you will only be notified through NHS Test and Trace if your child is a close contact of a positive case. In addition to this, children under 18 are no longer required to self-isolate if somebody in their own household is positive for the virus. You will be advised by NHS Test and Trace that your child should take a PCR test.

This means that isolating whole-classes will only be done in extreme circumstances, where there is a clear outbreak, and not part of normal practice, as has been the case throughout this pandemic.

Face Coverings

The requirement to wear face coverings on site will no longer be in place. However, if you feel more comfortable wearing one, then please continue to do so as it gives a better level of protection. In addition, staff will no longer be required to wear face coverings in and around school. In line with our risk assessment, we may need to re-introduce the wearing of face coverings in the event of us having a substantial increase in the number of positive cases in school.

The risk assessments we have had in place throughout the pandemic will continue – especially around hygiene and ventilation. We know from the figures reported in the news that there are still very high numbers of infections and we should not be complacent in protecting ourselves and others.

You can find out more information about the current guidance issued to schools here:



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance#tracing>

A final reminder that children return to school on Wednesday 8th September and doors will be open from 8:45am.

Enjoy the remainder of the holidays.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stuart Mills".

Stuart Mills
Headteacher