

13 July 2021

Dear parent/carers,

### **Lifting Coronavirus Restrictions – Step 4 of Government Roadmap**

Last week further operational guidance was provided to schools about *Step 4 of the Government's Roadmap* to remove coronavirus restrictions from Monday 19 July 2021.

A summary of the most significant changes from *Step 4 of the Roadmap* are:

- At Step 4 and after the end of the summer term, it will no longer be necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). This means bubbles will not need to be used for any summer provision (for example, summer holiday programmes) or in schools from the autumn term.
- Schools will only need to do contact tracing up to 18 July 2021. From 19 July 2021 (Step 4), close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace.
- From 16 August 2021, 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 coronavirus case.
- All school staff should continue to test – twice-weekly at home – on return in the autumn term. Government will review the continued need for testing, based on public health advice at the end of September 2021.

### **Reviewing the Trust's COVID-19 Strategy and Risk Assessment**

As all Trust schools will be closed for the summer holiday by Wednesday 21 July 2021, the Trust will continue to operate with our current Risk Assessment for the last few days of term. This means bubbles will continue to be sent home if someone else in their bubble has symptoms or a confirmed case of the virus.

Over the summer holiday period we will conduct a full review of our COVID-19 Strategy. We will write to you again when children return to school to let you know the changes we have made and which COVID-safe practices will remain in place.

We will also complete our *Outbreak Management Plan* which outlines how we will operate if there is an outbreak in a Trust school or the local area.

## **Control measures for children attending summer holiday programme**

Over the summer holiday period some children will be attending the *Summer Holiday Programme* operating from school sites. The Trust has been working closely with the activity providers to ensure COVID-safe practices are in place. These will include:

- good general hygiene and hand hygiene for everyone.
- maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes.
- keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.
- encouraging mask wearing by adults in any crowded space.
- following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of the virus.

I hope this information is reassuring and continues to demonstrate our absolute commitment to keeping children, staff and families as safe and well as we possibly can.

As this is my last communication to you before the holidays begin, please can I thank you for the support you have given to us over these challenging months. I know it has been very much appreciated by school staff.

May I wish you and your family a pleasant, sunny and safe holiday period.

Yours sincerely,



**Robert Bowater**  
**Trust CEO**