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Dear Parents / Carers,

As the country moves towards Step 4 of the roadmap, the Department for Education (DFE) has published the revised **Schools COVID-19 operational guidance**, having worked closely with the Department for Health and Social care (DHSC) and Public Health England (PHE).

In this letter I will provide a brief summary of this guidance, where applicable to Primary Schools, *and the implications this has for the children, families and staff at Thames View.*

The final page of this letter details specific information for the start of Term 1 – Thursday 2nd September.

Risk assessment

We must continue to comply with Health and Safety law, putting in place proportionate control measures, and regularly review our risk assessments - treating them as 'living documents', as the circumstances in our school and the public health advice changes.

*SCHOOL ACTION: An **Outbreak Management Plan** will shortly be published which will include having arrangements in place to monitor whether the controls are effective and working as planned, and the actions required should the school have an outbreak of COVID cases.*

Mixing and 'bubbles'

At Step 4 it is no longer necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). As well as enabling flexibility in curriculum delivery, this means that assemblies can resume, and we no longer need to avoid mixing at lunchtimes.

SCHOOL ACTION: Assemblies will resume from September, however, due to the positive decrease in first aid incidences and behaviour issues during the split Year Group lunchtimes, and the changes to the timing of the school day, current lunchtime arrangements will remain.

Children of working parents attending Friday Clubs will be in mixed year groups.

Tracing close contacts and isolation

From Step 4, close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.

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 COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.

SCHOOL ACTION: We will continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak, where we may be advised to temporarily reintroduce some control measures.

Face coverings

From Step 4, face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.

SCHOOL ACTION: Staff and parents will continue to wear face masks at their own discretion and in consideration of others.

If we have an outbreak in our school, a director of public health might advise that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas or classrooms (by pupils, staff and visitors, unless exempt).

Control measures which continue

1. Ensuring good hygiene for everyone

SCHOOL ACTION:

Hand hygiene -Frequent and thorough hand cleaning will continue as regular practice. This will be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser.

Respiratory hygiene -The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important and actively encouraged.

2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes

SCHOOL ACTION: We will maintain an appropriate cleaning schedule, including regular cleaning of areas and equipment with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.

3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated

SCHOOL ACTION: When school is in operation, we will continue to ensure it is well ventilated and that a comfortable teaching and learning environment and temperature is maintained.

Poorly ventilated spaces will be identified as part of the risk assessment with steps taken to improve fresh air flow in these areas, giving particular consideration when holding events where visitors such as parents are on site, for example school plays.

4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test

Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).

SCHOOL ACTION: If anyone in school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home and parents / colleagues will be asked to follow public health advice.

When a child is awaiting collection, they will be left in a ventilated room on their own if possible. The household (including any siblings) should follow the PHE stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

Asymptomatic testing

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. That is why, whilst some measures are relaxed, others will remain, and if necessary, in response to the latest epidemiological data, we all need to be prepared to step measures up or down in future depending on local circumstances.

SCHOOL ACTION: Staff should undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will also be reviewed.

Confirmatory PCR tests

SCHOOL ACTION: Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19.

Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do.

Remote education

Not all people with COVID-19 have symptoms. Where appropriate, we will continue to support those who need to self-isolate because they have tested positive and learn from home if they are well enough to do so.

SCHOOL ACTION: We will maintain our capacity to deliver high quality remote education for next academic year, to use via Edmodo/Website as required.

Education recovery

SCHOOL ACTION: We will continue to support all children to recover from education missed as a result of the pandemic, by analysing assessment data and reviewing our curriculum content and delivery.

Pupil wellbeing and support

SCHOOL ACTION: We will continue to support children who may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as anxiety, stress or low mood.

Arrangements for September 2021

- Parents/Carers of children joining our Nursery and Reception classes will have received letters detailing their individual September start days/times. If you are unsure of the details please contact the school office office@thamesviewprimary.medway.sch.uk

Parents of Nursery and Reception children are to drop off their child at the classroom door and leave the school premises by taking the path around the back of the Nursery/Reception building.

- Children in Years 1 to 6 are expected to return to school and to their new classes on Thursday 2nd September at the **revised** times detailed below (Start Time column).

Classroom doors will open at the start times.

Please can parents/carers drop children off at/through the gates indicated, (and for Year 1 and 2 children at their classroom doors), leaving the school premises as soon as possible to avoid large gatherings on the playgrounds. (Gates will be labelled)

Year Group / Class	Gate Number	Start Time	Finish Time	Wear PE Kit on PE day
Nursery – Sparkles AM	4 & 4a	8.30am	11.30am	-----
Nursery – Sparkles PM	4 & 4a	12.30pm	3.30pm	-----
Reception – Pippin and Sunrise	4 & 4a	8.40am	3.15pm (Mon-Thurs) 1.05pm (Fri)	Tuesday
Year 1 – Elstar and Kanzi	4 & 4a/4b	8.35am	3.20pm (Mon-Thurs) 1.10pm (Fri)	Thursday
Year 2 – Fortune and Liberty	4 & 4b/4c	8.35am	3.20pm (Mon-Thurs) 1.10pm (Fri)	Wednesday
Year 3 – Opal and Topaz	3 / 2b	8.30am	3.25pm (Mon-Thurs) 1.15pm (Fri)	Monday
Year 4 – Enterprise and Victory	2 & 2a	8.30am	3.25pm (Mon-Thurs) 1.15pm (Fri)	Thursday
Year 5 – Blenheim and Windsor	1	8.30am	3.25pm (Mon-Thurs) 1.15pm (Fri)	Tuesday
Year 6 – Discovery and Pioneer	1	8.30am	3.25pm (Mon-Thurs) 1.15pm (Fri)	Wednesday

NB. Working parents/carers who have expressed an interest in a Friday Club place for their child/ren will receive a separate letter detailing arrangements for Friday Club provision.

Thank you once again for your support and understanding.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy summer break.

Best regards

DL Daburn

Deanne Daburn
Head of School