

8th July 2021

Dear Parents & Carers

Another busy week across the Federation.

If you are familiar with the game 'Whack a Mole' you will have some sympathy with schools who across the country are battling the increase in Covid cases resulting in multiple bubble closures. We recognise this is as much a challenge for you as parents and carers, as it is for us as school leaders. Over 640,000 pupils in England were not in school this week due to having to isolate - up from 375,000 the week before. Of these, just 62,000 were confirmed or suspected Covid cases. Once again, a big thank you for your understanding and support. The decision to close a bubble is not undertaken lightly and we appreciate you respecting our professional decisions.

You will also have seen Gavin Williamson's announcement about the changes to the bubble system and the lessening of school restrictions from 19th July. To summarise:

- The use of Covid bubbles in England's schools, colleagues and Early Years settings will end on 19th July. However, we will maintain our arrangements until the end of this term.
- Children who attend the school holiday provisions will no longer need to be in a bubble however.
- Schools will no longer have to stagger start and finish times.
- Assemblies will resume.
- Alternative playtime and lunchtime arrangements will end.
- Schools are no longer expected to carry out contact tracking – close contacts will be identified via NHS Track and Trace.
- From 16th August, under 18's will no longer need to self-isolate after being in close contact with a positive case
- Fully vaccinated adults will also not have to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a positive case
- Those who test positive themselves will have to self-isolate whether they are vaccinated or not
- Face masks are no longer advised

To confirm, whilst we welcome the lifting of these restrictions, at each school we will be maintaining our current arrangements until the end of the Summer Term.

In other non-Covid news. We are very excited to be launching Forest School provision across each school and in the Children's Centres. This will further enhance our work around outdoor learning which will become a bigger part of the school's offer. More information about this to follow.

You will also receive some information about the virtual 'It Takes a Village' meeting at Daubeney next Wednesday 14th July at 5pm. This is a special Hackney Education led initiative around improving outcomes for Young Black Men. Each of our schools will be continuing to look at the theme of 'belonging' in the new academic year. If you can spare a few hours next week to attend this meeting, it will be a very informative session. Thank you Daubeney for hosting. Look out for a separate letter going out today.

And finally, you will receive your child's end of year report shortly. I hope you enjoy reading about their achievements this year. A big well done to all of the children for doing so well despite the challenges of 2020/21.

Stay safe and well

