

13th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Prime Minister's Announcement – 12th July 2021

As I am sure you are aware, the Prime Minister confirmed yesterday that some legal restrictions would be lifted and England move to Step 4 of the 'Roadmap' from 19th July. In his announcement he made clear that 'it is absolutely vital that we proceed now with caution ... We cannot simply revert instantly from Monday 19th July to life as it was before Covid'.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-at-coronavirus-press-conference-12-july-2021>

As a school we will continue to implement all of our existing systems of control until the end of this term, including asking everyone to wear face masks in busy areas where social distancing is difficult, such as corridors and indoor break areas, and keeping pupils in their year group 'bubbles'. Updated guidance has now been published for schools and we are in the process of reviewing this in preparation for next term; I will write to you again with further information when Trustees and Governors have had the opportunity to review and approve revised plans.

However, I would draw your attention to one change that the DfE has advised comes into place from 19 July 2021. The DfE states, 'From Step 4, close contacts will be identified via NHS Track and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing ... Contacts from a school setting will only be traced where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.' We do not yet precisely know how this system will operate in practice, but the school will support the NHS Test and Trace process if and when required. In addition, we have been informed by the DfE that from 16th August 2021, children 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 they will be advised to take a PCR test.

In the meantime, we continue to encourage all members of our school community to adopt the 'hands, face, space and fresh air' approaches that have become so familiar over the last year.

Yours sincerely



Ms S F Spivey
Headteacher, Springfield School
CEO, The De Curci Trust