



14th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am sure many of you will be looking forward to the planned national easing of restrictions on Monday 17th May and the opportunities that this will bring. The updated guidance for schools has been issued and there are very limited changes in terms of how we are required to operate. We are still required to maintain bubbles, observe social distancing and continue with all the regular hygiene and handwashing and cleaning protocols.

As you may be aware, there have been a large number of cases in one of our local schools this week and this is a reminder to us all that this can have a significant impact, not just on children being sent home to isolate but on their families too. With higher cases in Hart this week than nationally, it is really important to me that the national 'lifting of restrictions' on 17th May doesn't make us complacent in school or at home.

It might seem a little strange that it appears you can mix more out of school than you can in school; however, this is all linked to the requirement for any close contacts to self-isolate. We need to keep this risk to a minimum for children and staff in schools and by keeping in consistent groups (Bubbles) this should help prevent the need for larger groups to have to resume Home Learning for any isolation period. We will continue to do everything possible to make sure that everyone remains healthy and the children are able to remain in school.

Our staff have received their first COVID vaccinations and many are shortly to receive their second dose. In addition, all staff are undertaking Lateral Flow Tests twice weekly and reporting the results via the Government online portal. Reporting our results helps the NHS monitor the spread of the virus, combat the virus and save lives.

As always, we ask that anyone displaying symptoms does not attend school and follows NHS advice on taking a test. With yet more new variants emerging, I know that you will stay alert to how your children are feeling. Although a new continuous cough, high temperature or loss of taste and smell are the main symptoms that have been published, there are other symptoms which are COVID related so please refer to the [NHS website](#).

I know that we are all eager to be able to enjoy less restricted lives, however, I would urge you to be cautious, the COVID threat is still very real. We will continue to take a very cautious approach here at school so that the risk of needing to send children home is kept as low as possible. We will not be offering any after school clubs this term. Our priority, as it has been all year, is to keep all our children learning and having fun in school and to keep COVID at bay.

Your support and understanding is much appreciated. If you do have any questions or concerns, please do get in touch.

Kindest regards

Christine Lynch

