



Hockliffe Lower School  
Woburn Road  
Hockliffe  
LU7 9LL  
1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

## **RE: Return to school & changes to coronavirus (COVID-19) measures from 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Dear parents / carers,

We hope you have had an enjoyable summer holiday. We are now looking forward to welcoming the children back in to school. Thank you for supporting the school's fight against coronavirus last year and for working with us through what has been a challenging time for everyone. We are incredibly grateful for your participation and understanding.

In line with the government's roadmap out of lockdown, many control measures ceased to be legal requirements on 19th July. This letter outlines our plans for your child's return to school in September – by working together we can continue to keep everyone safe and reduce the spread of coronavirus.

### **Testing and self-isolation**

The school is no longer responsible for Test and Trace close contact tracing in the Autumn term. This will be taken over by the NHS Test and Trace service, who will inform your child if they have been in close contact with a positive case and advise them to take a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. Your child **will not** need to self-isolate and can attend school as usual, unless the PCR test returns a positive result (please see additional Central Bedfordshire flowchart attached to the email).

The school will continue to have a role in working with local health protection teams (HPTs) in the case of a local outbreak. If there is an outbreak in the school, the NHS will contact the school and a Director of Public Health could advise us to temporarily reintroduce control measures – we will inform you as soon as possible if this applies.

If your child receives a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result, they should self-isolate in line with the [stay-at-home guidance](#). They will also need to get a free PCR test to confirm if they have coronavirus; whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within two days of the positive LFD test, and is negative, it overrides the LFD test result and your child can return to school, as long as they have not experienced coronavirus symptoms for 48 hours prior to their return.

## **End of staggered start and pick up times**

The staggering of start and pick up times for different classes will no longer be in place from the Autumn term. All pupils will be able to arrive and depart from school at the same time each day without restrictions. The start of the day is 8.55am and the end of the day is 3.15pm. Access to and from the school is via the bridge and the one-way system is no longer in operation. **However, please still follow our queueing system outside your child's classroom and keep your child with you at all times until you receive further instructions from the class teacher.** You are also no longer required to wear a face covering when on site.

## **Curriculum**

We believe routines and boundaries support pupils' well-being, therefore teachers will follow their usual timetable and teach an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects, while making the use of existing flexibilities to create time to cover the most important content. As in the summer term, modifications to the curriculum may be needed so teaching time will be prioritised to address significant gaps of all pupils.

## **Mixing and bubbles**

'Bubbles' will no longer be implemented within the school. Alongside enabling flexibility in the delivery of curriculum, the lifting of this restriction also allows assemblies and lunches to resume as normal.

Your child will no longer need to adhere to social distancing rules in communal areas and classrooms. Pupils will be able to sit in groups in the classroom and at lunchtime and the need to sit facing forwards will also no longer be in place. Areas in school will continue to be well ventilated.

To prepare for the event that cases rise in the local area, the school has created 'contingency plans' to cover the possibility that it may become necessary to reintroduce bubbles for a temporary period in order to reduce mixing between groups. Please see the schools' website under 'policies and key information' tab.

## **Uniform Including PE Kits**

Pupils should wear school uniform including appropriate PE kit on the days they have PE.

PE Days are as follows –

Willow is Tuesday and Friday,

Maple is Thursday and Friday

Rowan is Monday and Friday (excluding Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021)

Children should wrap up due to ventilation of classrooms.

## **Cleaning and sanitary procedures**

We will put in place and maintain an appropriate cleaning schedule. This will include the regular cleaning of areas and equipment, with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces. Classroom resources, e.g. books and games will also be cleaned regularly.

Frequent and thorough hand washing will be encouraged. We will continue to ensure that your child cleans their hands regularly with soap and water or hand sanitiser. We will also continue to help those with complex needs to clean their hands properly.

## **Extra-curricular activities**

We will be able to provide extra-curricular provision for your child without any restrictions on the reasons for which they may attend, including any clubs, for example Sports. All our extra-curricular provision will be risk assessed and follow the same procedures as regular lessons.

## **Remote learning**

We will ensure remote education plans are in place in the event your child has to self-isolate. While attendance is mandatory, high-quality remote learning will be provided for pupils who are following clinical or government guidance to stay at home, e.g. where they are self-isolating. All pupils who are not physically unwell will be given access to remote education as soon as reasonably practicable via Google Classroom.

## **Well-being**

Pupil well-being, both physically and mentally, is always our priority at Hockliffe, more so now than ever. As part of our adaptations we continue to incorporate the principles of the recovery curriculum into our everyday practice. As well as this we have well-being check-ins and brain breaks throughout each day. Pupils also have access to an emotions chart in each classroom to discuss their feelings and a worry box to talk confidentially with staff. Most importantly our dedicated team of nurturing staff will support our pupils to feel safe and supported while at Hockliffe.

If you have any questions regarding the information outlined in this letter, please contact school office on 01525 210330 or email [office@hockliffelowerschool.co.uk](mailto:office@hockliffelowerschool.co.uk).

Yours sincerely,



Mr B Sale

Headteacher