

# COVID 19 MEASURES

## REVISED PLANS

### SEPTEMBER 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We wanted to share with you some more information about the revised measures that we have implemented to help to minimise the chances of having a COVID 19 outbreak in school.

The Government guidance for schools has also changed when dealing with COVID 19 outbreaks. The DfE advises using whichever of the following thresholds is reached first as an indication for when to seek public health advice:

- 5 pupils or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period; **or**
- 10% of pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period

If either of these thresholds are reached, we will have to implement a COVID 19 contingency plan in line with advice from Westminster. This includes a range of measures, depending on the severity of the outbreak and the advice we are given. The likelihood of these thresholds being reached at some point during the year are quite high, bearing in mind that for most classes 10% is 3 cases over a 10 day period.

However, we are also desperate to get back to some sort of normality, so we have made some changes and have more in the pipeline. I have outlined the measures we have kept and the changes we have made below:

#### **What we are still doing:**

- Ensuring good hygiene for everyone (lots of handwashing)
- Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes
- Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated
- Following public health advice on testing (for staff), self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19
- Minimising mixing of classes (although children and staff are mixing more – see below!)
- Staggered start and end of day to ease congestion and make these times calmer for children and parents
- Having one class in each playground at lunch time as this was requested by the children and also reduced accidents and disagreements
- Some assemblies will be over Zoom

### **What has changed:**

- 2 classes eat lunch together in the hall at lunch time
- 2 classes play together at break time in the playground
- We have extended the lunch break
- Staff are able to move between classes
- Relaxed systems and routes for moving around school
- Some furniture in classrooms has been rearranged (e.g. classes in KS1 were sitting in rows but are now in groups)
- Holding Key Stage assemblies either outside (weather permitting) or in the hall
- More singing!
- We are planning to offer clubs again soon – more details to follow

In addition, we are updating our COVID Recovery plan for this academic year which will include how we intend to continue to support pupils to recover both emotionally and academically. The Government is continually updating their information and advice for schools so this is very much a 'live' document. There is a COVID 19 section on the website where we publish all relevant documents.

We are continually reviewing and revising our systems and plans in school as our absolute priority is keeping everyone safe.

We really appreciate your patience and support as we continue to navigate the unknown – thank you!