



Dear Parents and Carers

## Step 4 Announcements

This afternoon the government have published the guidance that schools will have to follow from July 19<sup>th</sup>. For those of you who are interested, you can read the [full document](#) here. I will work with colleagues across school in the next few days to ensure that we understand and apply this guidance. As ever, our priority will be to ensure the safety of students, staff and their families. As soon as I am able to, I will write to you setting out more details on how school will work from July 19<sup>th</sup>. However, there are two key points that I think it might be helpful for you to be aware of:

- The guidance recommends that from Step 4 it is no longer necessary to keep children in consistent “bubbles” (year groups) throughout the school day. However, it does also set out “if your school is still open at Step 4, you may wish to continue with these arrangements until the end of your summer term.” You will know that school closes for all students at 12:25 on 23<sup>rd</sup> July which is only 5 days after the move to Step 4. In practice, we will need to make significant alterations to the school site in order to move away from our current arrangements. **Therefore, we will maintain our current arrangements for keeping year groups separate until the end of term. Indeed, it is very likely that all current control measures (ventilation, cleaning regimes, hand and respiratory hygiene, one-way system...) will remain in place for this final week of term.**
- The guidance also sets out that schools will no longer need to undertake contact tracing from the 19<sup>th</sup> July and that from this date NHS Test and Trace will work with individuals who test positive to identify close contacts. This will be implemented at Kimberley and I will ensure that parents are fully informed of how this will work before the 19<sup>th</sup> July.

My intention is to write to you early next week with a full set of information of how school will work from the 19<sup>th</sup> July and also give you an early indication of what will be in place from September 2021. Your patience as we navigate our way through this is really appreciated. I would also appreciate it if parents and carers could reinforce with students that the control measures will remain in place for the remainder of this school year. I am very conscious that the virus is in circulation in our community and we should do everything we can to continue to minimise transmission within school. Our staff and students have worked exceptionally hard throughout this year and I do hope that we are able to work together to minimise disruption to plans families may have for the summer holiday.

In the meantime, please continue to reinforce twice weekly testing. Please remember that your child should not attend school if:

1. they have one or more [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#)
2. a member of their household (including someone in their [support bubble](#) or [childcare bubble](#) if they have one) has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
3. they or a member of their household have had a positive test

Yours faithfully

Andrew George  
Head Teacher