

15<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Government announcement leading to changes from 19<sup>th</sup> July until the end of term**

I am sure you have all heard about the changes to Covid-19 guidelines that are due to happen from 19th July. As a community we have all worked so hard to keep Portland safe for everyone and I would like to thank you all for all your support and help with this. We are sure that you will probably have a few questions and hope that the information below answers them. Please be assured that our aim is always to keep everyone as safe as possible.

**Will school start and finish times change?**

School will continue to have staggered start and finish times until the end of term. Everyone understands the current routines and they will help keep all our community safe.

**Will I need to wear a face covering when dropping off or picking up my child?**

No, this will no longer be a requirement, but many staff will still opt to. If you or your children wish to wear a face covering that is a personal choice and is completely fine to do so. We do request that if you want to talk to a teacher a mask is required.

**Is school going to keep children in bubbles?**

As the R rate is currently very high and the number of people double vaccinated in our school community is low, we will be following local authority advice and be keeping the children in bubbles until the end of term. Children and adults are still required to isolate for ten days if they are a close contact until 16th August and we are really keen to avoid this impacting on as many children and families as possible. We are also concerned that if the self – isolation period extends into the summer holidays it could therefore affect the well-deserved holiday plans you may have arranged. We want as many children to enjoy their final weeks in their current classes and year groups and to have a lovely summer break.

**Will school still be closing bubbles?**

As we will be operating in bubbles we will continue to close bubbles if needed, following the exactly same guidance as track and trace.

**We will provide you with clear guidance in the week before the children return to school in September – we have learnt that a lot can change in a short period of time and want to ensure the information you receive is as up to date as possible.**

If you have any further questions please do ask, but for now we are carrying on in the same way until we break up for the summer holiday.

Stay safe and take care

Kate Green

Executive Headteacher