



Creativity is our key to learning

Rochdale Road
Todmorden
OL14 6RN

T 01706 812947
F 01706 819285

admin@walsden.calderdale.sch.uk

Headteachers: Mrs E Crowther and Mrs E Logue

Friday 9th July 2021

Dear parents and carers,

We would like to firstly thank you for your support over the past year. It has been a challenging time for staff, children and families. We are really grateful that you have worked with us in implementing all the health and safety restrictions imposed on schools throughout the pandemic.

As you may be aware the government has published new operational guidance for schools from Step 4 of the Covid roadmap. We have carefully read the new guidance and going forward will be making following adjustments to our school procedures.

For the final week of this term it is our intention to remain in bubbles; however, the procedure around positive cases has changed. If school is informed of one pupil with a positive case, we are now no longer required to send the whole bubble home to self-isolate. However, if more than one child in the class tests positive, we would seek Public Health advice and all close contacts would likely be sent home. We have been advised by Public Health to remain in our bubbles until the end of this term to limit transmission of Covid in school. Locally, cases in schools remain very high and we want to minimise impact on our families at the beginning of the summer holidays.

In September when we return to school the following procedures will (hopefully) be in place:

- **Start of the day** – times for the start and end of the day will be as follows
Infants – 8.55am – 3.15pm
Juniors – 8.55am – 3.20pm
- **Bubbles** – we will no longer have class bubbles, but will endeavour to retain separate KS1 and KS2 bubbles to minimise contact in September. Should we then be unlucky enough to have an outbreak, only half the school will be affected.
- **Individual cases of Covid** will be asked to isolate, but close contacts will not be sent home unless there is an outbreak.
- **Handwashing/sanitising** hands on entry to school will continue.
- **Enhanced ventilation** will continue – windows and doors - when safe to do so - will remain open at all times.
- Parents no longer need to wear **masks** at school drop off and collection.
- **Parent events and praise assemblies** will be reviewed in September.

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.”

All our risk assessments will be updated to reflect these new procedures. We will also update our outbreak planning. Most of our staff have been double vaccinated; please do be aware however, that should a number of our staff become infected, we may have to close classes for operational reasons.

We have been advised that the Department of Education will update this guidance before 4th September. Should that updated guidance alter any of the above, we will let you know before the children's return to school on Monday 6th September.

If you wish to discuss any of this further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you very much for your continuing support throughout all the changes to usual school life. We have been extremely lucky not to have had to close any bubbles since October and sincerely hope that we do not have to do so in the future.

Kind regards

Emma Crowther & Esther Logue



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