

9th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware, the Government, via the Department for Education has now issued new COVID-19 guidance for schools effective from Monday 19th July 2021, in line with the wider removal of COVID-19 restrictions throughout the country from that same date.

We wanted to write today to provide you an update on what this means for your child/children from 19th July, should these plans go ahead. Final confirmation of these plans will be given by the Government on 12th July.

Though we are still in school through to the 21st July, in line with government guidance we will be continuing with the same bubble system that we already have for the last few days of school to ensure consistent health and safety measures are followed through to the end of the school year.

After the end of summer term, the following changes will be in place, in line with the new guidance:

- **Bubble system:** It will no longer be necessary to keep children in bubbles. This means that if your child will be taking part in any summer provision, such as summer schools or activity camps, they will not be bubbles. It also means that there will no longer be a bubble system when we return to school in September for the start of the new academic year, as things currently stand.
- **Contact tracing:** Schools will only be responsible for contact tracing until Sunday 18th July. From Monday 19th July, close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace.
- **Self-isolation for children and young people:** From Monday 16th August, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, they will only need to self-isolate if they have COVID-19 symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test result.
- **Face coverings:** Face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, students, staff, and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. From Step 4, face coverings are also no longer recommended to be worn on dedicated transport to school or college and are no longer legally required on public transport.

Continued....

- Asymptomatic testing: As pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, the government guidance states that all secondary school pupils should receive two on-site lateral flow device tests, 3-5 days apart, on their return in September. Schools are able to begin testing up to three working days before the start of term and can stagger the return of pupils across the first week to manage this. Pupils should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed. We will be in touch with an update on our plans for testing pupils nearer the time.

Please see the full [guidance](#) for further details.

Although there will be changes as part of the easing of restrictions, as a school we will have outbreak management plans in place, as required by the Government, to ensure we are prepared to continue to operate if there is transmission of the virus in our school or the local community. These will mean that if the situation requires it, a bubble system or other measures may need to be temporarily reinstated in the future, and we must stress that the safety measures in place will be continually reviewed and assessed in accordance with Government and local guidance.

As has been the case throughout the pandemic, ensuring the health and safety of our pupils and staff is our top priority. As such, we will be continuing to encourage good hygiene including regular handwashing, maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes, keeping occupied spaces well ventilated and following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

As was the case at the start of the pandemic when we had to adjust to a new way of life, this new change again may inevitably create some uncertainty as we all adapt. However, we will continue to work closely together as a school community to ensure the best outcomes for students, staff, and our wider community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact office@arrowvaleacademy.co.uk and we will do all we can to support you.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Mellor
Principal