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*Dream, Believe, Achieve.
'Nothing will be impossible with God'*

Tuesday 11th May 2021

RE: The government roadmap step 3 from 17th May 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

I write in response to the announcement made by the Prime Minister last night. New guidance from the DfE was published yesterday updating school on expectations as the 'Roadmap' progresses.

In summary, the majority of information and infection control measures within school will remain the same, with the only exception being the removal of the requirement for staff to wear face coverings in the classrooms. Everything else remains the same. We will continue in our bubbles with individual outdoor bubble space, lunches will be served in classrooms and the staggered start and finish to the day also remains in place for now.

All children still have access to individual resources packs so I ask that you do not send them to school with anything other than a water bottle and PE kit, and a packed lunch if they do not take a school meal. Children have begun to bring in a few unnecessary items (figures, cards and 'popping boards') and we ask that you ensure these are not brought into school. Any additional items will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day. We have been very careful to avoid bubble closures and would ideally love to make it through the pandemic with only government directed closure. So far so good!

As you are already aware, pupil attendance at school became mandatory again on 8th March. I would like to remind families that pupils are expected to attend every day, unless they are isolating or shielding. Many families may be thinking of planning family holidays and the guidance clearly states that these should only be taken in the school holiday periods. Term time holidays are not allowed, unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you feel you meet the 'exceptional' criteria (details can be found on the school website in the attendance policy) please apply to the school for your individual cases to be assessed. Having had so much time out of school over the last year, all holidays will be unauthorised and a fixed term penalty notice requested from the Local Authority. Medical evidence will also be required to support and significant period of 'illness'.

For your information 'Schools coronavirus (COVID-19) operational guidance, May 2021' states

'Attendance

School attendance became mandatory again for all pupils from 8 March.

The usual rules on school attendance apply, including: parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school (where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school

age) the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.'

'Term time holidays

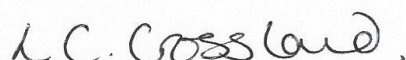
As restrictions begin to lift, some families may be looking to take holidays. As usual, parents should plan their holidays around school breaks and not take their children out of school on holiday during term time. Where a parent wishes to take their child out of school for whatever reason, the onus is on them to apply for a leave of absence and demonstrate why they believe the circumstances are exceptional. Schools make decisions on granting leave of absence, but will not normally do so for a holiday.'

Furthermore, the school will not authorise any absence due to a quarantine period upon return from travel abroad. Please ensure all quarantine is complete during the school holiday period.

I do hope this letter provides you with the updated information you require. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher should you have any further questions.

Many thanks for your continued support as we navigate our way 'out' of a pandemic situation.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L.C. Crossland". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Lisa Crossland
Head Teacher