



21st June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the government announcement last Monday regarding the delay in relaxing restrictions – our current Covid measures must remain in place for a while longer. We certainly are hoping for a normal return to school life in September but sadly with the infection rates rising across the country and confirmed cases in our surrounding schools (bubble closures and remote learning is once again happening within the Chew Valley) we must be extremely cautious to ensure our small schools continue to be as safe as possible for our children, staff and wider communities.

As a result, we have been forced to review our end of term events. Opening up the school grounds and inviting large groups into our schools will not be sensible or cautious at this time. Following Trust guidance and reviewing our risk assessments, we have taken the following decisions which are completely based upon the threat of rising cases, how quickly the new variant is transmitting and the small size of our school sites which make it much more challenging for us to mitigate increased risk.

It has been very difficult to make these decisions and we are very disappointed for the children and yourselves. All of our staff have been so looking forward to a more normal end of year and celebrating with you all, however, the safety of everyone is paramount especially as we near the summer holidays. Please also be mindful that although some of our staff have received at least one vaccination, some have not yet received their first.

We have therefore risk assessed each event and will be able to currently offer the following:

Sports Day: these class bubble events will take place as they are not based on the school sites, however. Sadly, we can only invite 1 family member to attend (we are unable to breach 30 people – the legal gathering limit). **DfE guidance – ‘Any parents attending outdoor events must adhere to current social distancing requirements. Where outdoors spectators can gather in groups of up to 30 – the legal gathering limit.’** We are not able to extend this number as marshalling and space is not available for 2 groups of 30. If you are joining us, you must wear a mask when entering and leaving the playing field or Glebe, maintain social distancing at all times including when you are spectating. Please do bring along a chair or rug to sit on. Younger siblings are allowed but they must stay with their adult at all times. Please see previous letter for bubble timings.

Year 6 vs Parents Rounders Match: This will not be able to go ahead as we will not be able to guarantee social distancing. Class teachers will be looking into an alternative and will keep Y6 parents updated.

End of Year Performances: We will not be able to invite audiences onto the school sites for the performances. As per our risk assessment, we will now explore the possibility of streaming a recording of the performances. We are planning for both performances to start at 6pm. East Harptree's on Monday 12th July and Ubley's on Tuesday 13th July. Mr Abbott (one of our Ubley parents) has kindly offered to support both schools with recording and streaming, and we greatly appreciate this very kind offer.

End of Year Celebration Assemblies: These will not be able to take place on the school site unless restrictions are eased on 19th July. The staff and children will therefore plan and record class assemblies to share with you via Class Dojo to ensure they are able to share as a class some of the special things they have been doing in school.

Year 6 Leavers Service: We are looking at how we can offer our Year 6s a special service. Details will be confirmed directly to Year 6 parents. For Ubley this will be the morning of 21st July and for East Harptree the end of the school day on 21st July. This will depend very much upon the announcements over the coming weeks but we will do everything we can to have parents present for this.

Chew Valley School have also confirmed that they will not be running their Transition Day again this year but will be offering alternative options which will be relayed directly to parents. As bubble mixing in schools and across schools continues to be restricted, we will now be planning 'meet your teacher' sessions after school for all our children in the week of 12th July. Details for each class will follow but this will allow the children to spend a session with the teacher and children in their class to prepare them for September.

I do realise that our approach may seem overly cautious to some, however, we have a huge responsibility to maintain our safety levels to protect, as far as possible, the working environment for our staff and to avoid community transmission. I hope you appreciate that these decisions are not easy to make but we have to make them in a timely manner and without the benefit of hindsight.

Please see the information below that we have received from BANES Public Health. We would ask you to read this and follow their advice.

We will continue to update you as and when we have additional information.

With best wishes
Jane Bailey

Update re testing 16.6.21 from BANES Public Health

As you will be aware we have seen a rise in the number of cases of Covid-19 across the country, specifically cases of the Delta variant. Whilst currently numbers in B&NES are relatively low compared to some areas it remains a cause for concern. We are therefore, emailing you to ask that you share the following key points with your staff, pupils and families to remind them that there has been no change in the national guidance issued around testing, tracing and containment in schools

All staff and secondary / college students - please continue to undertake Lateral Flow Device (LFT) testing at least twice a week

All adults in families / households with children aged under 11 - please continue to undertake LFT testing at least twice a week

In the event of a positive LFT or the onset of COVID symptoms, a PCR test must be taken to confirm the case, and the individual and their contacts MUST self-isolate straightaway

Contacts of a positive case are now also encouraged to take a PCR test, even without symptoms, to quickly detect secondary cases. Please remind contacts that if their PCR test is negative they must still continue to isolate for the remainder of their isolation period as they could still be incubating the virus.

Please also note PHE recommend that children with non-COVID specific symptoms of acute respiratory infection don't go into school if they are unwell as a general rule, and get tested if they (or their families) progress to COVID 19 symptoms whilst unwell.