



# Oyster Park Primary Academy

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Acting Headteacher: Mrs J Lindsay

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16<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Follow the government announcement of 'Freedom Day' and the easing of restrictions from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July, including removal of legal obligations around mask wearing and social distancing. Guidance for schools was then outlined by the Secretary of State for Education, whereby we were informed that 'bubbles' would no longer be required from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Although the prospect of some sense of normality returning to schools and life is welcoming, as always, the health and safety of each child and adult within our school community remains our priority as we bring this academic year to a close. Removing the use of 'bubbles' in the last week of the academic year will undoubtedly bring about operational and logistical challenges, with any additional cases leading to implications for staff and families running into the summer holidays - should they be identified as a close contact of a positive case (as changes to self-isolation requirements will not begin until 16 August 2021). In short, if we now remove bubbles, and other measures, direct contacts could be widespread and we may find that much larger numbers of staff, pupils and their families will be required to isolate into the first two weeks of the summer holidays. This is something we want to avoid.

As a school, we have adhered to strict procedures which have helped us to mitigate against any spread of the COVID-19 – something which we have been successful. However, as we have seen this last week, having had to close our second bubble since the reopening of schools on March 8<sup>th</sup>, we cannot now become complacent. Therefore, in line with the Department for Education guidance 'If your school is still open at Step 4, you may wish to continue with these measures until the end of your summer term.' (Schools COVID-19 operational guidance, July 2021, p.4), Oyster Park Primary Academy will continue all current COVID-19 procedures until the end of this academic year. We understand that, like many of the adults within the school, you are looking forward to no longer needing to wear



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face coverings and adhere to social distancing. Therefore, we really do appreciate your support with helping us to continue to mitigate the potential spread of the virus over the final week of this academic year. The future looks brighter in terms of being able to plan for September. Obviously, depending on the prevailing data at the end of August, things could change quickly, but at the moment we are hoping to be back to a more normal routine when the children return on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs J Lindsay

*J Lindsay*

Acting Headteacher



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