



# Somerford Primary School

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Headteacher : Mrs H Frampton

16<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents

I am writing to you with some important information relating to COVID19 and our control measures in schools.

Sadly, cases in BCP, in particular in schools, are rising at a frightening rate. Some schools in our local area have had to close classes, year groups, and in one case, the majority of the school.

We would like to reach the summer holidays without anyone becoming unwell and without spoiling people's summer holiday plans with a need to isolate. Therefore, as previously explained, we will be keeping all of our protective measures in place in school until we close at 1.30pm on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

You will be receiving a letter via Marvellous Me this afternoon from the DfE which explains that from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July, schools will no longer be responsible for Track and Trace and instead this will move to the NHS. This means if your child tests positive from Monday, you will be contacted by the NHS and your child will be asked a series of questions to identify close contacts.

In reality we know this process can take some time to happen and we don't want to risk any spread within a bubble while people are waiting to hear from Track and Trace. Therefore, if there is a positive case from 19-22 July, we will move the bubble to remote learning. There will be no requirement to isolate at home unless you are directed to by Track and Trace but the bubble will not attend school.

This will protect children, staff and parents from the possibility of becoming unwell and needing to isolate at the start of their summer holidays which is something I am sure we all would want.

I am hopeful that our current safety measures will mean this will not need to happen but we need your support with this too as legal restrictions are lifted on Monday. Please remain sensible!

I have also been informed by the Local Authority that as case are still rising, we will not be provided with guidance by the DfE until the end of August. Schools have also been told it would be sensible to keep current measures in place during September while we see what the data shows us after children return to school.

Therefore, sadly, we will be keeping our staggered starts and finishes, bubbles and other measures in place for September – unless I tell you otherwise at the end of the holiday.

**Enjoy**

**Aspire**

**Achieve**

By making this decision now, I am hoping it allows for you to plan for the first few weeks in some way. I am sorry I cannot be more definite but we can only base our decisions on information as we are given it. We will send information about timings next week.

To end with some good news...we have an ice cream van visiting next Thursday morning and children and staff will visit in their bubbles to have an ice cream or lolly at the end of a really tricky year!

Please stay safe – we are nearly there!

Best wishes

Helen Frampton

Head teacher