

Dear families,

As you will be aware, from Monday 19th July, many of the restrictions that have been in place throughout the pandemic will begin to be lifted. Schools have also been issued with new guidelines as part of the process.

From Monday, the school will no longer decide on the closure of class bubbles should there be a single positive case within a class. Any positive test will now be reported to NHS Test and Trace who will carry out contact tracing. From August 16th, positive contacts who are under 18 years old will no longer need to self isolate. Until we get to this point, if identified as a positive contact, your child would need to self isolate in line with the government requirements. **In order to keep children's contacts to a minimum for the final week of the half term, we will keep many of our current restrictions in place.**

We have updated our risk assessment to reflect the new guidelines. Wherever possible, we are seeking to return to how our school day operated before the start of the pandemic, but this is supported by some preventative control measures. In readiness for the start of the new year, I wanted to outline the key changes which will take effect from our return on **Wednesday 8th September.**

Timings of The School Day

We will no longer be operating a staggered school day. All children will need to line up on the playground at **8.50am.** Reception and Key Stage 1 children (Year 1 and 2) will line up on the small playground. Key Stage 2 children (Year 3, 4, 5 and 6) will line up on the larger playground. Please ensure that your child is on time, as we begin lessons as soon as we enter the building and any period of lateness will affect their learning.

The end of the school day will return to **3.15pm** for all pupils.

Whilst the requirement to socially distance and wear face coverings will be lifted, we would ask that you remain sensitive to the fact that some adults may still wish to follow this practice. The one way system will be removed so that there is access to the disabled bays in the car park for those families who need this. Please be aware that the car park is only to be used in this circumstance. Please exit the academy grounds by walking back up the path in which you normally enter.

Lunchtimes

We will return to our normal lunchtime operations in September. This will include a full hot service and meal offer. Children will eat in the dining hall and lunchtimes will be a 1 hour break. **Can we also remind you that we are a nut free school and no nuts or products with nuts in are to be sent into the academy.**

Ventilation

Ventilation remains a key control measure. We will therefore balance the need to open classroom windows with the need to maintain a comfortable temperature. Children will not need to wear coats in classrooms, but you may wish to dress them with additional layers e.g. vests should the weather become a little colder.

COVID-19 Cases

Please remember that your child should not attend school if they display the symptoms of COVID. You should arrange for them to have a PCR test and they should self isolate until the result comes back. If your child's test returns a positive result, this will be picked up by NHS Test and Trace who will work with the school to follow any government guidelines. If you do have a positive result, please let the academy know, so that we can provide appropriate support including access to remote learning.

Home LFD testing kits are not promoted for primary aged children.

Personal Hygiene

We will continue to promote regular hand washing throughout the school day. Children will be expected to wash their hands regularly, particularly before and after lunch and when they have been to the toilet.

We will also promote good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it; bin it; kill it' message.

Features of The School Day

Many features of our pre-pandemic school day will be reestablished from September. This will include school assemblies and whole school playtime. These are important socialisation opportunities that children have missed throughout the last two years.

Uniform

Please be aware that the uniform policy will continue as normal in September. This will include footwear. See below for additional information regarding school footwear and uniform:

<https://www.lofthousegate.outwood.com/uniform>

Only plain black shoes are allowed to be worn with the uniform. The shoes should be free from embellishments and decorations. No trainer like shoes, boots, pumps or canvas shoes (including 'Vans') will be allowed. Heels should be no higher than 2.5cm/1 inch.



If students are not wearing the correct footwear they will be expected to borrow a pair of shoes from SID/Student Reception/Learning Manager. ^{Ac}Go: the shoes will be treated with a hygienic spray after each use.

We have made all of these plans for September in the context of the guidance available to schools at this point. We hope, like you, that the situation does not change over the summer break and that we can move towards a more familiar school day. If there are any changes made which affect how we will return to school in September then we will notify you by **email/text/website etc.**

We just wanted to take this as an opportunity to say how proud we are of all our staff, children and families. In true Lofthouse style, we have come together and tackled everything that's been thrown at us this academic year! We are very much looking forward to September and wish you all an enjoyable, safe Summer break.

As always thank you for continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Hadfield
Principal