



Friday 23rd July 2021

RE: September 2021 - Opening Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

The government and Department for Education have released their updated guidance for schools ahead of the summer holidays, so I am writing to you with my intentions for Tuesday 7th September 2021. As with all government guidance, this is subject to change. If anything does change, I will communicate this with you as early as practically possible.

COVID-19 Update:

From September the following changes will be in place:

- School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age.
- Staggered starts and ends to the school day will cease. All pupils will start school at 8:50am and school will finish at 3:20pm.
- Our new reception children will follow the start and end times set out by Miss Jackson in previous correspondence.
- Consistent bubbles are no longer recommended. Pupils will now be able to socialise with children in other year groups at break and lunchtimes. Whole school assemblies and singing practice will be able to commence.
- Mixed year group after-school enrichment clubs can begin (these will start WB: 13 September 2021)
- The school no longer leads on tracing close contacts; this will now be led by NHS Track and Trace.
- From 16th August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. This should lead to significantly less disruption to your child's education.
- If your child is contacted by Test and Trace as an identified close contact with a positive case, they will be advised to take a PCR test.
- In the case of a local out-break within school, we will work with local health protection teams and take advice from these professionals.
- School has an outbreak management plan which will be enforced if advised by Public Health England; this will look similar to the procedures which we had in place from September 2020.
- Face coverings will no longer be advised for staff and visitors to school, although I may encourage this if local rates are high and risk of transmission to pupils, staff and families increase.



- School will continue to implement control measure to reduce the risk of transmission in school.
 - ✚ **Good hygiene procedures for everyone** – frequent and thorough hand cleaning, ‘Catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach for use of tissues.
 - ✚ **Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes** – regular cleaning of areas and equipment, with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.
 - ✚ **Keep occupied spaces well-ventilated** – opening external windows (and doors when appropriate)
 - ✚ **Follow public health advice** on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases.
- Staff will continue to test twice-weekly using Lateral Flow Tests.
- In the unlikely situation where your child does have to self-isolate, remote learning will be provided by the school to ensure your child’s education is not disrupted.
- Free School Meals provision will also be provided if your child needs to self-isolate.

Thank you for your continued support with the measures which we put in place since September 2021; your cooperation and understanding has helped to reduce the risk of transmission within school.

Additional holiday:

In line with Somerset Local Authority and other local schools, there has been a change to the school’s calendar. Kingfisher has set an additional holiday on Friday 22nd October 2021. This is to enable everyone to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday on 3rd June 2022 which falls during half-term.

To finish, a personal thank you from me – your unwavering support since September has not gone unrecognised and it has been very much appreciated. I know it has been a highly frustrating year for us all, but we have made it through with the future certainly looking more positive.

Wishing you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful summer break with your children and loved ones. Assuring you of my best intentions at all times.

With best wishes,

Mr Daniel Glentworth
Head teacher