

Thursday 15 July 2021



## Update Letter

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well.

It is hard to believe that it is the end of the academic year – it has gone so fast.

It has been another year of significant challenge and disruption, but again we have all worked together as a team and have managed to overcome these difficulties and ensure the impact on the children has been kept to a minimum. I am so incredibly proud of all the pupils they have been an absolute inspiration.

Unfortunately, there are uncertain times ahead as we move out of the restrictions, we are worried about the impact this will have, the last few weeks of term have seen a rise in cases in school and an increase in class & transport bubble closures and with the lifting of restrictions we anticipate this will only increase. Whilst in September, the requirement for close contacts to self-isolate will end, staff who test positive will still need to isolate, and with a predicted surge in cases, this will undoubtedly impact the number of staff we have available in school, which could mean that classes will need to close due to insufficient staff numbers to operate the class safely.

The DFE have issued guidance for schools [DFE Guidance for Special Schools](#) it is also available on the school website.

### Summer

Between now and the start of term we are continuing with all the current arrangements in school. The Summer school will be operating in bubbles, pupils will be encouraged to wear masks on arrival and pick-up and as they move around school in common areas. Staff will be testing twice weekly and we strongly encourage parents of any secondary aged pupils attending the summer school to test their child twice weekly prior to attending the summer school too. LFD kits will be sent home today with all the pupils who have a place at summer school. If a member of staff or pupil does receive a positive LFD, they need to seek a PCR as soon as possible, their bubble will then isolate whilst awaiting the result of the PCR. If a pupil or member of staff receives a confirmed positive, we are encouraging them to self-isolate for 10 days. Staff or pupils will not be allowed back onsite until their 10-day self-isolation ends and they have been symptom free for 48 hours. If you require any further info, please contact Mrs Dawn Mahood, Out of School Club Lead.

### September

At the start of academic year all secondary aged pupils (who have consented) will be tested onsite on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Test kits will then be sent home for all secondary aged pupils and parents are strongly encouraged to continue twice weekly testing at home until the end of September.



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We would also request that pupils continue to wear masks travelling to and from school, and when moving around school. We are also continuing to operate our current bubble system until the end of September.

As we understand it the guidance for September is that if a pupil tests positive, they seek a PCR test ASAP. The parents then contact track & trace and inform them of close contacts. We understand that this will be difficult, as you may not be aware of who your child has been in contact with at school, we will help and support you with this. All identified close contacts are encouraged to seek a PCR test. There is no requirement for close contacts to self-isolate unless their PCR test is positive.

I appreciate the guidance is a lot to take in and can sometimes be confusing, but we are always here to help and support, please contact a member of the business support team (BST) who will be happy to help.

### Parent Survey

A huge thank you to all the 106 parents that responded and completed our annual parent survey. We were thrilled as that is the largest number of responses we have ever received. It was great to read your feedback, your messages of thanks and appreciation gave us all such a huge boost, it was also great to hear suggestions and ideas on how we could further improve school, this will be fed into our school development plan. A copy of the responses is available on the school website [Parent / Carer Survey Summary](#).

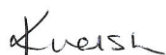
### Calvert Trust

Mrs Nilma Patel, Mum of one of our Y8 pupils is participating in the Great North Run on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September, her chosen charity is one very close to our hearts, The Calvert Trust, for several years now our secondary age pupils have benefited from a residential activity holiday at their site in Keswick. Please be as generous as you can to keep this amazing charity going and providing such amazing experiences for our pupils. Good Luck Nilma!

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/nilma-patel>

I do hope you all enjoy a lovely summer break and the opportunities the easing of restrictions brings, but I would also ask you to be mindful of continuing to keep yourselves and your family and friends safe and well.

Keep Safe 



Kieran Welsh  
Headteacher



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