



HIGHFIELD LITTLEPORT ACADEMY

An Active Learning Trust School

Executive Headteacher: Simon Bainbridge
Head of School: Yvonne Skillern

Friday 3rd September 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

Welcome back to the new school year. In July, following the Government announcement that we were moving as a nation into Stage 4 of the Covid 'roadmap', I wrote to you to outline that we were sticking to the measures we had in place for the last few days until the end of term.

Now we have begun the new school year we are in a position to implement the changes that are outlined in DfE documentation that schools are expected to put in place. There are three main changes for us that I thought you would like to know about:

Face coverings. These are not now recommended as a protective measure in schools, so we don't expect staff, pupils or visitors to wear them. However, we do recognise that some people may want to continue wearing them and this is fine.

Bubble groups and social distancing. Again, this is not now recommended to be in place in schools. This means that we can move back into ways of working that we haven't been able to for the last 18 months. For example running a full hydrotherapy timetable so that more pupils are able to get the input, and engaging with the wider community through educational visits.

Self-isolation. Self-isolation for close contacts is not now required if the person has been vaccinated or is below 18 years 6 months old. This means that pupils and staff can remain in school unless they themselves develop symptoms. This will cause much less daily disruption to you at home and us at school.

As a leadership team we are considering what aspects of practice that we have developed over the last 18 months we would like to keep. For example we have had many parents telling us that it has been easier for them to attend annual reviews online than travelling into school, so this is possibly something that we will continue to offer. However, we also recognise that some parents will want to come into school for face to face meetings. Of course, the above is subject to change as the Government guidance changes. If we do need to amend our approach we will let you know as soon as we can.

Many thanks, hope to see you soon,

Yvonne Skillern
Head of School