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### COVID Outbreak Management – Update: 9 July

All SWS families,

Further to my communication yesterday (8 July), I am writing to update you on our current case management situation and decisions we have taken as we move towards the end of term. In the letter yesterday, I informed you that we have had a sharp rise in infections and positive cases both as LFD results and PCR results. I included the following:

- Cases in the community are rising and will continue to rise over the coming weeks. The delta variant is in circulation in our community.
- **Only students who have been asked to self-isolate via text or phone call need to do so until Friday 16 July.**
- Any student who shows symptoms should not come to school and should immediately go for a PCR test (not just do a home LFD test) before returning to school.
- All face-to-face meetings, events and appointments at school are now cancelled and will be done over Teams via the telephone or deferred until September.
- Remote Learning will begin on Monday 12 July for students self-isolating. Year Group leaders will contact families separately to outline how to access this provision.

The following information has also been communicated by video message today and should be available on all our social media platforms and our website. Following discussion with Public Health England, the local authority and our Governors, I have taken the decision to close the school site from 3.00pm on Friday 16 July until September re-opening. Remote Learning will replace the final two and a half days of the term for children in all year groups.

The reason for this decision is the increased risk to children, staff and the wider community of bringing the whole school population back following this period of self-isolation. It was felt strongly by all parties that, given the continuing sharp rise in infections, it is better on balance to close the school early.



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In summary:

- Face coverings are again compulsory in **all settings** across the school
- **School (site) will close at 3.00pm on Friday 16 July**
- Remote Learning (Full days) - Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 July
- Remote Learning – Celebration assemblies Wednesday 21 July (am)

I am sure you will share my view that although this is not the way we would like to end the term, the wider health implications for our children and community must lead our decision making. All members of the school community have worked hard and supported each other across the pandemic. Since our return from lockdown on 8 March we have worked hard on a balance of keeping people safe, whilst trying to re-start our educational provision and get back to a school way of life we all recognise. It is deeply unfortunate that we have had this happen so close to the end of term.

Next week, I will communicate with you our start of term arrangements and outline the new government guidance for schools in September. We have worked hard in the background to be 'September ready' and launch the school year with a renewed energy, determination and confidence. I will do everything I can to make sure this happens.

Irrespective of this final piece of disruption, our children have done so many great things in school this year. You only need to look at our story on social media to see this. It remains a place of such powerful, unique potential. This period has asked so much of everyone in terms of adaptability in the way we live and work together, and I am extremely proud of how the school community has responded. Additionally, the way we have looked after each other and followed safety guidance at school is a key reason why we have suffered such little disruption when I compare us to schools in our region and nationally.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. I know that for so many of you, self-isolation causes multiple problems balancing work and care responsibilities. Please be assured I have not taken decisions lightly and will continue to act in the best interests of our school and the wider community of which we are such an important part.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Fraser', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jason Fraser  
Principal