



ORCHARD HEAD

J, I & N SCHOOL

Orchard Head J, I & N School

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15th July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Headteacher COVID-19 Update

I hope this letter finds you well. As you will be aware the Prime Minister confirmed that we will move to step 4 of the government roadmap from Monday 19 July. This will hopefully bring a greater sense of normality for our children and wider community. With this in mind, I wanted to provide you with an update of what this means for Orchard Head school moving forward.

Step 4 Update

The step 4 updated guidance can be accessed using the link below:

[Step 4 update - what parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges)

From 19 July:

- "Bubbles" will no longer be required in educational settings. However, we are keeping the children in their current classroom "bubbles" until the end of the term as part of our infection control measures. This will limit the potential spread of the virus between different year groups right before the children leave for the Summer and reduce the potential need for isolation during the early stage of the holidays.
- Contact tracing will be taken over by NHS Test and Trace, so we will no longer undertake this task in response to a positive case in school. If your child displays symptoms, or tests positive for Covid, they still need to isolate.
- Adults or children may still choose to wear a face mask if they wish in school.
- All current 'one-way' systems, procedures and timings for drop off and pick up will remain in place until the end of the academic year.
- From 16th August 2021, children under the age of 18 (and adults who have had two doses of the vaccine) will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are identified as a direct/close contact. Instead, they will be advised to take a PCR test. Those with symptoms, or those who test positive, should still self-isolate as they currently do. A positive LFD result will also continue to lead to self-isolation whilst an individual is awaiting a confirmatory PCR test.

It is worth remembering that The [Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health](https://www.rcpa.ac.uk/) have made it clear that the overwhelming majority of children and young people still have no symptoms or will only suffer a very mild form of the illness.

As Headteacher of our school I greatly appreciate your continued support. As always, should you have any queries please contact school via admin@orchardhead.patrust.org.uk or by phone on 01977 723495.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Mitchell
HEADTEACHER