

24th June 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope this letter finds you safe, well and enjoying the improved weather.

Given that the end of the academic year is fast approaching, I am writing to inform you of amendments to our schools usual arrangements for this time of year.

You will be aware of the Prime Minister's announcement on 14 June that the move to Stage 4 of the roadmap has been delayed until 19 July. The requirement to maintain the current level of restrictions means that we will be unable to proceed with some of our planned activities.

The Department for Education guidance is clear that as things stand, it is vital that all school settings maintain the integrity of class, phase or year group bubbles. Therefore, schools should endeavour to keep any measures in education and childcare to the minimum number of settings or groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible. Schools are also advised to limit open days and transition days as well as parental attendance.

Considering this guidance, and the rising infection levels caused by the 'Delta' variant, we have made some very difficult decisions. This includes for on site, face-to-face induction visits for pre-school children, due to start school in September 2021. Schools visits for these children will not be able to take place in any WeST Primary during school hours before the summer holidays. The health and welfare of our staff, pupils, their families and our local community are paramount as well as prioritising education and limiting activities that place education at risk.

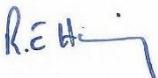
As each WeST primary school receives early years children from a variety of different early years settings, trying to maintain 'bubbles' would be impossible. Mixing groups of children could risk spreading the infection across our schools. This in turn could have an infection impact in primaries. WeST primary schools will now communicate with parents explaining why and how the arrangements will change based on their local context and risk assessments. The focus will be on putting in place a comprehensive induction programme in September to support the transition into reception. Each primary will communicate their plan in due course which may include small group visits to schools at the end of the school day and after other children have gone home.

I hope that these decisions reassure you of our constant vigilance in terms of preventing the spread of infection and keeping children and staff safe.

I will keep you updated of further developments as they emerge.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Rob Haring
Chief Executive Officer