



29th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Stepping through 2021- 22 – Step 2 Small but Valuable Steps

In our letter to you at the start of term when we explained that we would be maintaining our COVID-related routines in school we promised to write to you with steps forward should the local picture around infection levels improve. In light of the fact that the rate of cases in Devon now sits below the national average, and that Teignbridge has the lowest rate among Devon councils it seems appropriate that we take gentle steps forward.

The focus of these steps take into account what children and parents have shared with us as being important during recent consultation, coupled with our consideration of what we can do to maintain comfort and safety levels while making progress towards more typical school-life.

The changes that we plan to make from **Monday 4th October** are detailed below. Before sharing these we would wish to assure you that alongside these steps, **our COVID-related approaches to the cleaning of the school, and engagement of children in maintaining personal hygiene through hand washing will continue**. These remain a critical part of our ongoing COVID response.

We are pleased to share with you that from Monday 4th October:-

- **The school gate on Sandringham Road will be reopened.** The Queensway and Sandringham gates will be available at the start and end of each day in the same way as has been the case pre-COVID. We would ask you to take care when crossing Sandringham Road as we are aware of increased traffic/taxi numbers linked to Glendinning House who are working with us to manage traffic in support of your safety.
- **Entry to all classrooms in the morning will be from the courtyard.** Coupled with the opening of the Sandringham Road gate this will ensure that all children 'flow' into one area rather than using the rear of the school which would see those arriving from Sandringham Road walking out of the courtyard. *Children in the Foundation Stage will continue to use the gate into the outside area at the back of the unit.*
- **Lunchtime changes.** At present children in Years 3 and 4 and those in Years 5 and 6 eat and play separately, swapping from hall to playground. In making progress towards previous routines, there will be a more 'fluid' approach to use of the hall for eating and playground for playing during lunchtime. This will see children from these year groups sharing the playground for periods for the first time since we first made changes.

These are all of the first steps that we are taking for the time being – we hope that they mark a return to important elements of school life, with the site more accessible and lunchtimes more shared for some. As we make these changes, please be assured that in the event of any significant movement in the landscape around COVID over coming weeks and months these steps can be reviewed again. Should we continue to see positive progress in levels of infection locally we plan to share further steps with you that will come into effect after the half term break.

Thank-you for your patience, support and understanding as we continue to take positive steps forward for your children and families as a whole. If you have any questions about arrangements please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

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