



19th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Stepping through 2021- 22 – Step 3 Moving Forward

Recent letters to you since the start of term have shared steps that we have taken so far as we relax some of the measures originally put in place to protect our community from COVID-19. We are pleased to say that steps that we have taken so far have really made a difference to the experiences of children and families, with no resulting increase of cases of COVID-19 in school. In the wider community we know rates of cases of COVID-19 across Devon sit below the national average, and that this is reflected in numbers in Teignbridge.

With this in mind we are pleased to share with you **next steps** that we plan to take from **Monday 8th November 2021**. This means that current arrangements will stay in place for one week when we return after half term before any changes are made.

The developments that we are planning are detailed below. Before sharing these we would wish to assure you once again 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 8th November:-

- **Children will be welcome to use the bike and scooter storage in the courtyard.** It is however essential, for everyone's safety, that children are not riding scooters and bikes in the courtyard area.
- **Parents will be invited to join their children for Time to Think across the school.** Following a 'pilot' that has been going on in Year 4 we will be taking steps towards our previous Time to Think sessions, when in the past all parents were welcome every morning between 8.35 and 8.50am. From 8th November, class teachers will be offering parents a particular morning each week to join their child's class at any time between 8.35 and 9.00am to share Time to Think. For the time being we plan to manage numbers of visiting parents each day – the wearing of masks is the choice of the individual and not something that we will request. *Existing arrangements will remain in the Foundation Stage.*
- **Lunchtime changes.** Our most recent lunchtime change sees us now being more fluid in how children in Years 3-6 use the hall for eating and the playground for playing during lunchtime. From Monday 8th November children in Years 1 and 2, who currently use the courtyard as a play space will return to the playground when they finish their dinner each day. Dinner timings mean that there will not be a period when all children from Key Stages 1 and 2 are all playing together at the same time – this will ensure space and safety for all those present. A member of the Key Stage 1 team will be on the playground throughout this time.
- **Assembly changes.** Each Monday morning children from Years 3 – 6 will share an assembly in the school hall. In recent times Years 3/4 and Years 5/6 have had separate assemblies during this time. We look forward to the children being able to share their thoughts and opinions together again.

The four areas above detail the next steps that we are taking together. Of course if there are any changes in the local landscape that lead us to have concerns about relaxing restrictions, we will be in touch with you and re-assess our plans. If all goes well we will look to take further steps, and share our plans for Christmas celebrations with you towards the end of November.

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

Yours sincerely,

Scott Hampton
Co-Head Teacher

Katy Galling
Co-Head Teacher

Robert Doets
Chair of Governing Board