



Date 2/11/21

## Response to the Director of Public Health Letter at The Firs

Dear Parents/carers,

Having read the letter from Vicky Head, the Director of Public Health sent to you yesterday and again with this letter, you will realise that schools are being asked to review procedures and measures in place in the light of increased rates of infection which have raised to 'very high levels'.

We have decided on a series of approaches that strike a balance between the need to maximise children's learning and the important duty to keep everyone safe.

The key points regarding these measures are below:

1. All staff will be asked to wear **face masks** in communal areas in school. (They will **not** wear them in class when teaching).
2. We will try to minimise visitors to the school / face to face meetings as much as possible and any visitor coming into school (including parents/carers) **will be asked to wear a mask**. (Parents/carers will **not** be asked to wear a mask on pick up / drop off as the focus is on '*indoor gatherings and mixing*').
3. All visitors coming into the school or Saplings building will be asked to use sanitiser.
4. We will move to virtual assemblies again until the end of term.
5. Children in Y2-Y4 will begin to have their meals delivered into classrooms again, (to avoid all the children gathering in the hall) although playtimes and lunchplay will remain unaltered, as they are outside. Children in Saplings, YR and Y1 will eat in the hall but the seating arrangements will be designed to keep them apart.
6. We will continue to ensure all classrooms are well ventilated, that children wash their hands at regular intervals and that we maintain the focus on additional cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.

In addition to these procedures we have looked at some key events coming up this term and reviewed how the new guidance impacts on them:

1. As we have already indicated to you, we have decided that the Parent Teacher Meetings, which are being held right at the beginning of this period of stepped up restrictions, will continue as planned (due to the short notice and difficulties with any re-organisation) but with the amendments set out in the email to you yesterday.

Adam J.G Campbell (Headteacher)

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2. School Council Participation in the Ampthill Remembrance - this can continue as it is outside and so is of a lower risk.
3. Christmas productions -The dress rehearsals will be turned into a 1st performance to allow each class of parents to be invited separately (socially distanced) in the hall to allow the Christmas concerts to happen this year.
4. PTA Craft Fair - this event involves a large amount of indoor mixing but as it is a PTA event we are consulting with them and they already have some great ideas to make the necessary changes, whilst still maximising the fun!

I hope this is a useful update but if you have any questions please contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Adam J.G. Campbell'.

Adam J.G. Campbell  
Headteacher