

HEMSWELL CLIFF PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Headteacher: Mrs A Waplington

20th July 2021.

Dear Parents/ Carers,

The Department for Education has released operational guidance for schools which will apply from ‘Step 4’ of the Government’s roadmap away from restrictions related to Coronavirus. Our school has worked tirelessly since March of 2020 and we will continue to do so to keep our children, families and community safe. We have followed guidance throughout and this will continue in our future.

Below is a summary of key points made and implications for us as a school. These are not official decisions yet; further discussion and ratification from Governors will be required, however I hope you find it helpful in beginning to look forward to September 2021.

Guidance Summary	Implication for Hemswell Cliff Primary School
A risk assessment must be in place – including active arrangements to monitor whether controls are effective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A revised risk assessment will be produced, in keeping with operational guidance.
It will be no longer recommended that it is necessary to keep children in bubbles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classes can mix for learning and social opportunities. • Assemblies can resume in the school hall – it will be the first time we have seen the children together in over a year! • Teachers can restore ‘table group’ layouts in classrooms, but must consider organisation of pencil and book table boxes etc. to reduce unnecessary movement in class. • Staggered start and end times to the school day will stop.
Outbreak management plans should cover the possibility of reintroducing bubbles to reduce mixing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An outbreak management plan is to be produced. Any decision to recommend the reintroduction of ‘bubbles’ would not be taken lightly and would need to take account of the detrimental impact they can have on the delivery of education.
From Step 4 (July 19 th 2021), close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. • Decisions on social distancing amongst staff to avoid close contacts being told to isolate will be considered. Union and national advice to be sought



From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children who are close contacts of a positive case may still attend school. In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with symptoms should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending, we can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. This decision will be made as a result of a Governor-ratified risk assessment and would be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice. A PCR test will be requested by NHS test and trace. If there is an outbreak, we may be advised to temporarily reintroduce some control measures
From Step 4, face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The wearing of face coverings will no longer be expected for staff and parents as is currently the case.
Hand hygiene to continue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will continue with our regular hand washing and sanitising.
Respiratory hygiene to continue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important
Appropriate cleaning regimes to continue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular cleaning of areas and equipment to continue, with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.
Occupied spaces to remain well ventilated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ventilation to remain present in all classrooms as has been the case. Ventilation to be planned for when holding events where visitors / parents are on site.
Covid-19 symptoms or a positive test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to follow Public Health advice. Staff and children are not to come into school when showing symptoms.
Asymptomatic testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff should undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will also be reviewed. Staff to ensure they have appropriate testing for the Summer holiday period, whenever they are on site. Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID19. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate
Remote Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remote education support for those self-isolating must continue.
School Workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vast majority of staff are now double vaccinated.
School Meals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolating children entitled to Free-School Meals will require our support.

