



6th September 2021

Dear Families,

I hope you have all had a great summer break and have been able to enjoy some of the sunny weather we've had in Torbay. I'm delighted to welcome back pupils today and a special warm welcome to our new starters joining us in our Early Years Reception classes. It was a delight to see how much they've grown, hear what they've been busy with over the 6 weeks and to hear their hopes and aspirations for the new school year.

I'm very much looking forward to this school year and look forward to our school community working together to ensure the very best for all, and to set our pupils on the path to realise those hopes and aspirations. In fact, our Worship today was centred on some of the inspiring athletes we all saw in the Olympics and Paralympics this summer and other inspirational people.

As we look forward to the coming year, I wanted to take this opportunity to reassure parents, as we did in our letter at the end of the term in July about the measures we have in place to prioritise high quality face to face education for children, whilst **minimising risks of any COVID- 19 transmission.**

We will continue to have our System of Controls which include: regular handwashing, good ventilation, enhanced cleaning as well as following **Government rules on testing and isolation which all parents need to be aware of:**

Children should not come to school with symptoms but book a PCR test via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If the PCR test is positive, the child must isolate for 10 days and parents will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace who will identify any close contacts and support with next steps. Schools will no longer have responsibility for contact tracing but please do let us know so we can support Remote Learning and be extra vigilant for any spread at school. Other household members will be advised to take a PCR test but can attend school unless they themselves have symptoms or have a positive PCR test.



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TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE

If we do have positive cases in school, under Government rules on self-isolation, we will no longer be sending whole bubbles home. Instead, we will send parents of children in the bubble a 'Warn and Inform' letter with information so that they can be extra vigilant too.

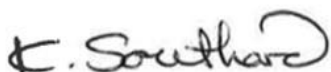
Rates of COVID-19 in the South West are high and the whole of the region has been designated Enhanced Response Area. Torbay's COVID-19 rates remain high, and this means we should be vigilant and play our part in minimising any risks. The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law although they do expect and recommend that they be worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. We would strongly recommend that, where possible, you would continue to wear a face covering when dropping and collecting your child to and from school.

Our school staff continue to work on minimising the risk by LFD testing twice a week, wearing face coverings in any crowded shared areas of the school as well as when on the school gates.

Like all schools, we will have an outbreak management plan which would be put in place, with support from Public Health England, should an outbreak occur and this would see 'tighter' measures. I

I would also like to thank you for your patience at the beginning and the end of the school day. As mentioned in our letter in July, there will be no official staggered start and end time of the school day. **The gate will still open at 8:30am but close at 8:45am. Children will then be dismissed at 3:00 - 3.15pm using the one way system as we did last year. Today was incredibly busy at 3pm but much quieter at 3.10pm. Please do not come onto the premises until 2.45pm so children are not distracted.**

Finally, I look forward to working with you all this year and look forward to meeting you at the gate.



Mrs Southard,
Head of Academy.