

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year!

I hope you have had a restful Christmas and I wish you all the best for a happy 2021.

You will be aware over the holidays that increased local restrictions and tier changes have been implemented in this area as well as further guidance around schools returning on Monday Jan 4th 2021. You will also be aware that this has generated a lot of debate around school safety considering the recent identification of new variants of Covid-19.

As it currently stands, following the current Government advice for our area, we are expecting our children to be back as planned on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Our staff have been busy preparing and planning for the next half term and have all sorts of exciting curriculum opportunities coming up- watch out on Google Classroom/Tapestry/Parentmail for more information for your child's class as we begin our Spring term.

I would like to take this opportunity to reinforce our safety measures to take the above into account and reduce opportunity for transmission of the virus.

*-Please do NOT arrive earlier than your child's arrival/collection time- where possible one adult accompanying your child only.*

***-Please maintain social distancing (2 metres) between families while waiting at all times- please keep your children/child minding bubble group together and please do not let your children play before or after school on site.***

*- Please leave the site immediately on collection.*

*- For those children in yrs 5/6 who walk to and from school, please ensure that they do not arrive earlier than their school start time. We are unable to guarantee playground supervision during this time for any early arrivals.*

*-Please continue to work with us to ensure non -essential belongings are not brought into school unless specifically requested by class teachers through a risk assessed curriculum plan.*

*-We will continue to ensure all hygiene routines are adhered to at all times through hand washing routines, cleaning and use of resources in classrooms.*

*-Please keep your child at home if they are unwell. If your child or someone in your household have Covid-19 symptoms, please let us know immediately when their symptoms started, when they had their test and the outcome as soon as you receive this. This will continue to support our test and trace system to protect our class bubbles and staffing positions.*

However, guidance and national decision making is rapidly evolving. Should there be further change, please bear with us as we process information and we communicate to you as soon as possible. We have to plan for contingencies which might involve bubble closures, or a move to wider remote learning with school only able to support critical workers/vulnerable and SEND children on site for a period of time.

Please rest assured that pupil, community, family and staff safety is our utmost priority at all times and we will continue to work together with you, staff and Governors to ensure our risk assessment is effective.

If you have any questions about any aspects of school provision during this continuing Covid-19 pandemic or if you need support for any Covid-19 related issues, please do get in touch to discuss these via the [schooloffice@rs.starmat.uk](mailto:schooloffice@rs.starmat.uk) account in the first instance.

Thank you for your continued support through these challenging times.

Miss Woodward  
Head of School