

Middlefield Primary Academy

Part of The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust
Established in the Queen's Jubilee year 2012
Andrew Road, Eynesbury, St. Neots PE19 2QE

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CEO: Mrs Susannah Connell BSc MA (Ed Mgt.) NPQH
Headteacher: Mrs Carol Besant

31st August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a wonderful summer holiday. I'm looking forward to seeing you all this Thursday when hopefully the sun will be shining for us again.

As you may be aware, the government, via the Department for Education has now issued new Covid-19 guidance for schools, in line with the removal of many restrictions throughout the country.

School re-opens on **Thursday 2nd September 2021** for pupils and from that time, the following changes will be in place, in line with the new guidance:

Bubble system: It will no longer be necessary to keep the children in bubbles. There will be no bubbles in school unless we need to re-introduce them as part of a contingency plan after a number of positive cases in school.

Contact tracing: Schools are no longer responsible for contact tracing although we will work alongside Public Health England and the Local Authority to assist however we can.

Self-isolation for children and young people: Children under the age of 18 years old are no longer required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive Covid-19 case. They will only need to self-isolate if they have Covid-19 symptoms themselves or have a positive Covid-19 test result. As previously, we would request that pupils do not attend school if they are showing symptoms of Covid-19. We can also confirm that self-isolating students will still have access to robust and comprehensive remote learning opportunities. We will let you know if there has been a positive case in your child's class so that you can be vigilant with your child having any symptoms.

Face coverings: Face coverings will no longer be mandatory for staff or visitors in any area of the school.

Asymptomatic testing: Staff will continue to test using LFD testing devices twice weekly until the end of September when this will be reviewed.

Start and finish times: **School will open at 8.45am and finish at 3.15pm (3.10 for EYFS).** Gates will open at **8.35am** and close at **8.50am**. Please ensure your child arrives to school on time. Please use the office entrance if the gates are closed.

Although these changes will take place as part of the general easing of restrictions, as a school we will also have outbreak management plans in place, as required by the government, to ensure that we are prepared to continue to operate if there is transmission

of the virus in our school or the local community. These will mean that if the situation requires it, a bubble system or other measures may need to be temporarily reinstated in the future, and we must stress that the safety measures in place will be continually reviewed and assessed in accordance with local and national government guidance.

As ever, our priority is to ensure the health and safety of our pupils, staff and families. As such, we will be continuing to encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene including regular hand washing/sanitizing, maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes, keeping occupied spaces well-ventilated and following public health advice regarding testing, self-isolation and management of confirmed cases of Covid-19.

Clearly, we may still face further challenges and may need to make more changes as we go along; we will continue to work closely together as a school community to ensure the best possible outcomes for all of us.

Other Information

PE Kits – For the first half term, please ensure your child wears their PE kit on their PE day. *PE Days to follow.* **All children will return to school on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September in full school uniform.**

What your child needs to bring to school- all named please

EYFS/KS1 – Book bag (no rucksacks please), water bottle, wellies

KS2 – Small rucksack, water bottle, wellies

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office. We will do all we can to ease your concerns and support you as best we can.

Thank you once again for your support, understanding and patience last year. I have everything crossed for a much more 'normal' year ahead.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Besant
Headteacher

On behalf of Middlefield Primary Academy (part of the DLPT)