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14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## **TO ALL FAMILIES ACROSS THE LEARN TO LIVE FEDERATION**

Dear Families,

Several of your wonderful children and young people are members of our active and impactful Student Councils. The Student Councils are supported by Lead Advocates and they play a key role in decision-making across the schools. One of the things the students have asked for is information about how the schools are going to move out of the Covid-19 restrictions. I have prepared some information for the Student Councils to share with the children and young people in the schools. As I began writing to you about the minor changes for next week, I thought it would be handy for you to have the same information as I gave the students:

- Boris Johnson, the Prime Minister, said last week that the virus is not making as many people ill. This means that from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May, people can all start to mix a bit more and do more of the things that were not allowed when the virus was very bad.
- From Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May, people will not have to wear a face covering in the classroom unless they really want to.
- Adults will still be asked to wear a face covering in places where it gets busy and where there are lots of adults all in one space, like the corridors and staffrooms and on transport.
- No-one will have to wear face coverings outside unless they want to.
- Classes can go out on more off-site trips but we are still saying no shopping on the trips out for now. That is because shops do not like groups of people going around the shop together, so we would be breaking their rules by all going into shops together.
- After the May half term holiday, we may be able to mix more with other classes and key stages, but we need to wait and see if the virus starts making more people ill again before we do this.
- Everyone will still eat in their classrooms for now because we are not allowed to get together in big groups indoors yet. In September, if the virus is still not making lots of people ill, the older students (Key Stages 3, 4 and 5, so Lower Seniors, Seniors and FE) may be able to eat together in the hall again, but remember this may have to change if the virus gets worse again.

- We are not allowed to have assemblies yet either. That is because of not being able to get together in big groups.
- I expect the older students will be wondering about having a summer ball or “prom” at the end of term. I know how much many of you look forward to this, so it would be great if we could work together to think of some ideas that would be safe as well as fun.
- I think the best idea would be to have it outside – maybe under some sort of cover or in a big tent. That would be much safer because Covid-19 does not like fresh air.
- It would be good if you could have a think about this and get back to me with some ideas.
- All the adults who wanted a vaccine have had two doses of the Pfizer vaccine now. I know many of you and your families have also had a vaccine. This will help to keep us all a lot safer.
- All the adults are still using test kits to test themselves for Covid-19 twice a week. They usually do this on Friday and Monday mornings. Sometimes they test more often, especially if they are going to work with a different class from their usual one. They do this to help keep all of us safe. If their test was positive they would have to stay at home, so when the staff come into school, you know they have tested negative.
- It is very important indeed that we all keep on washing our hands, using the hand gels and giving each other space. It is ok to remind people to wash their hands. It’s not being rude; hand washing is very important and is one of the main ways to keep everyone safe.
- Getting lots of fresh air is also important (remember, the Covid-19 virus does not like fresh air). Try to keep the windows open in class and talk to your teacher about being outdoors as much as possible. Now that the weather is getting warmer, this will be much easier. It has been a bit too wet and cold lately to be outside too much, but it will be getting nicer now that the Spring is here.
- I know this is a lot of information and I am happy to talk to you about it if you want me to.

The only other bit of information I would add for families is that we are starting to plan for joint sporting events with other schools, later in the Summer Term. This is in the hope that the reduction in restrictions continues and that variants of the virus do not halt the opening-up of society.

We are also now permitted to start planning residential trips – with lots of restrictions around it. We will not be taking residential trips away for the rest of this academic year as we feel it is a bit too soon and could lead to the distress of disappointment if things have to be cancelled. Hopefully, from September, the schools will be able to start working on plans to take groups away on residential during the next academic year.

As has been the case throughout the pandemic crisis, we are taking things carefully, monitoring each step. While there is a need to be very cautious, it is also important to start the process of getting back to accessing the wide ranging social and community opportunities we were able to provide before Covid-19. We can only do that by starting to slowly and gradually introduce the most important and impactful elements while not taking unnecessary risks.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



**Jacqui Warne**  
**Executive Head**

