

## Barley Lane School

Friendship, Optimism, Hardwork

15.05.21

Dear all - **Restrictions are easing, but we must remain cautious...**

I hope that this latest update finds you and your families well and looking forward to continuing enjoying some of the greater freedoms the Government have announced will be in place from Monday 17th May.

We will, of course, be following the latest Government guidelines regarding the wearing of faces masks in schools from Monday 17th May which means that face coverings will no longer be recommended for pupils in classrooms or communal areas in all schools and colleges.

However, if any pupil wishes to continue to wear a face covering in school, in order to protect others, then we are supportive for them to do so for the foreseeable future or until all restrictions are finally removed.

The guidance continues to recommend the wearing of face masks in situations in/and outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible e.g. corridors, offices, communal areas, if they choose to but, in line with the latest sharing, there are no strong recommendations to do so.

We are also aware that other protective factors such as ventilation and vaccination are key and so the doors and windows will continue to remain open and many staff have now had their 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccination. Therefore, greater immunity will be achieved within the community as the weeks continue to pass.

***The importance of social distancing and regular washing of hands is now arguably even more important given the relaxation of rules around face masks.*** The staff and children have an embedded routine and they have applied this brilliantly and are continuing to do so.

As a staff group we remain mindful to live out the daily discussion around remaining safe and cautious despite the gradual lifting of restrictions.

Continuing the positive update, we are encouraging the return of some outdoor trips and visits on a Friday afternoon, whilst applying all COVID risk management and procedures that will keep the community safer and in addition we are sticking to the 'bubbles' that we have had in place all year.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and please feel free to continue the dialogue with us at any time if there are any nagging queries or concerns.

The team at Barley Lane