



Shirley Junior School

Belle Moor Road,
Shirley
Southampton
SO15 5XE

13th October 2020

✉ juniorinfo@shirleyschools.co.uk www.shirleyjuniorschool.org.uk

Dear parents and carers of pupils in Year 5 & 6,

As per the government, we continue to assess our risk assessments and make adjustments accordingly. We know there is a rise in cases across the country and currently Southampton remains lower than other areas, we will continue to monitor this regularly.

As we have said from the very beginning, we want to be open and transparent with you about changes to our risk assessment and apologise if this information was not made clear in the weekly communication.

Several parents have expressed the need for children to have more freedom to run around on the playground and not just restricted to a small zone in their own class. In addition, some children have struggled not having access to friends in other classes, which has meant an increase in issues teachers are unpicking with their class each day. Teachers continue to have regular circle times, where pupils raise concerns and issues. This led the school to consider how adaptations can be made to help with their well-being.

Following the proposed change to bubble sizes last week, we received feedback from several parents regarding the move to year group bubbles and how this might increase risk for some vulnerable pupils in year 5 as well as potentially disrupt many families if we need to isolate a whole year group. In response to these concerns, we have asked pupils to wear a mask when coming up the stairs in the morning as they are mixing with pupils from different bubbles and if they are going to be in close contact with children from another class bubble at playtime. **They do not need to wear it if they are running around playing a game, as there is plenty of space in their year group area.** We are aware this is not government guidance and that there is minimal risk of transmission outside but felt it was an extra precaution to help all our families feel safe.

Wearing a facemask is not compulsory. If your child does not want to wear a mask, this is fine, we just ask they do not come in close contact with pupils not in their class on the playground and continue to play with only children in their own class.

All safety precautions are still being taken in school. As the risk assessment states, children will remain in their own class bubbles in the classroom and when moving around the school on the stairs (accept when entering in the morning), there are no other points in the school day where pupils mix with other class bubbles. We have invested in some more Perspex screens to allow adults to read or work on a one to one or with a small group of children from across the year group more easily in a well-ventilated room that is regularly cleaned.

I am sure you appreciate in a large community there are many differing opinions to the current situation and many differing needs for our pupils. We value feedback from parents and in response to this, we feel the measures put in place will;

- keep all children, including those vulnerable, safe and minimise the risk of transmission
- allow some children to play with friends in other classes
- reduce the number of daily issues arising from the playground as they will have more space to run around
- continue to allow us to get pupils in to school quickly with limited space outside and coming up the stairs, when pupils struggle to socially distance from each other
- Limit the number of families affected by a two-week isolation due to a positive COVID case to one class or those who have been in close contact

With these slight changes to the provision and the extra protective measures in place, I believe the school continue to limit the risk of transmission and allow pupils to have a positive experience at school. Thank you for your continued support, I hope this letter resolves any concerns. If your child is at all concerned about anything please contact their class teacher.

Yours sincerely

Annette Hixon
Headteacher

Headteacher : Mrs. A Hixon BA Hons NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs. J Tearle, PGCE

