

# Christ Church C of E VC Primary School

*'To inspire a love of learning for life so that every child can flourish within a supportive Christian community'*



**Headteacher: Mr. Neil McKellar-Turner**

Thursday 8 July 2021

## **DfE update to schools- Step 4**

Dear Families,

As you may be aware, in light of the Government's announcement earlier this week about progressing to Step 4 of the national roadmap, the Department for Education has issued new guidance to schools in order to help them prepare for September.

We are currently working through this guidance in order to make plans for September, particularly in relation to how the school will be organised. The DfE guidance suggests that, as long as the country reaches Step 4 as planned later this month, then there will be no further need for the use of class 'bubbles' and schools will be able to return to running as usual. There are also planned changes to the rules around self-isolation for children under the age of 18 who will no longer have to self-isolate even if they are identified as a close contact.

Although our decision making for the autumn term will be based primarily on this new DfE guidance, we will also need to ensure that we take account of local guidance; there is a meeting next week with South Gloucestershire's School Improvement Team and Public Health where schools will be updated with the local interpretation of the national guidance and expectations for how schools should operate in September. Furthermore, we want to ensure that any plans we make do not compromise the safety of our school community. We have all worked extremely hard over the last 18 months to ensure our school remains as safe as possible against the spread of Covid-19. **In light of this, we will be making no changes to the organisation of the school or, the protective measures that are in place, for the remainder of this term.**

I appreciate that you will want clarity as soon as possible regarding what September will look like for your child. Please bear with us as we unpick the new guidance; I will update you again before the end of term but it is likely that we will still be planning during the summer holidays as things may change again once Step 4 is reached on the 19 July.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil McKellar-Turner', written in a cursive style.

Neil McKellar-Turner  
Headteacher

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