



30th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

At this stage in the school year, we had hoped we would be in a very different position to which we find ourselves. The delay to the roadmap of easing restrictions is both very disappointing and frustrating.

What adds to this frustration is the apparent easing of restrictions in some parts of society which has not been extended to schools.

First and foremost, our focus must be the education, safety and wellbeing of our children; however, we acknowledge that the current DfE, Local Authority and Public Health England Guidelines, **which schools must currently follow**, are now undermining this focus.

We are therefore making a representation to the DfE to amend these guidelines at the earliest opportunity and not to wait until September. We fully appreciate the part our schools must play in contributing to wider public health, but we feel that this can be achieved by other mitigating factors in our control e.g. frequent testing, rather than a broad brush approach of having to send healthy children home and cancelling events.

We remain hopeful.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff in our schools for their work this year. Their commitment, professionalism and readiness to go the extra mile for our children has been quite remarkable. I also appreciate the support and kindness that you have shown to your schools during this difficult year and would ask that you continue to understand the unenviable position they find themselves in during these final days of the school year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.J. Tidmarsh'.

P.J.Tidmarsh
CEO