



Old London Road, Wrotham, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 7DL

**Headteacher:** Mrs E Rye BEd(Hons)

**T** 01732 882401 **F** 01732 884003

**E** [admin@st-georges-wrotham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-georges-wrotham.kent.sch.uk)

[www.st-georges-wrotham.kent.sch.uk](http://www.st-georges-wrotham.kent.sch.uk)

Church of England Primary School

Bringing **faith** and **education** together

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been a challenging year for schools to provide face to face and remote learning for children and I want to thank the staff for the incredible amount of work they have done to support the education of children. They are working full time providing face to face lessons and still providing lessons for those self-isolating even today.

There has been a lot of announcements in news items this week regarding the Government's Road map and the opening of Stage 4 on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July. While for many of us this brings welcome news at the potential opening up of restrictions and a feeling of a return to 'normality', it is important to remember that these are countrywide announcements. As a school we need to reflect upon them, look at the follow up information from the Department of Education where new guidance focuses a lot on the summer period ahead and the return to a new academic year in September. It is then important that we then make our own risk assessments based on what we know about the current situation in our local area and within our own school community.

Currently there are an increasing number of 'bubble closures' due to positive identification of Covid-19 cases within children in our local area and due to the honest communication between yourselves and our school we have an overview of where our school is. There has been so much planning and organisation into keeping children in bubbles and putting in protective measures for children and staff that to suddenly stop them with two days of the academic year is not what we feel would support our community as we move in the summer break.

Over the break we will be able to effectively look at the changes we have had to implement and from feedback with all stakeholders (children, families, staff and governors) we will be able to reflect on practices we may adopt, adapt and abandon (the 3 A's) for September 2021.



One task schools were told to take on over the last year was contact tracing. This has been a difficult and challenging addition for schools and not just in term time. On a positive note I feel it has strengthened our communication between parents and schools with having open and honest dialogues.

However, from the 19 July, NHS Test and Trace will take on the role of contact tracing and make direct contact with you if yourself or your children need to self-isolate due to being in close contact with a positive case of Covid-19.

From August 16th, those under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children, or their family members, will be contacted by Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.

While we may have personal disappointments about not being able to attend important school events this year (and as a parent of two primary school age children, one of whom is a Year 6, I have experienced this too) it is important, after all we have done, not to make quick, rash decisions and changes when in effect it would only be for two days of the remaining school year. We continue to reflect on what is in the best interests and safety of all.

Thank you for all your support this year, it is very appreciated.

Kind regards,

Mrs Elizabeth Rye  
**Headteacher**