

July 2021

Dear parents and carers,

As we near the end of the summer term and indeed the end of the academic year, we would like to thank you for supporting your school throughout the continuing pandemic. It has been a year very different to any other and there have been more challenges to overcome than any other in memory. Your Head Teacher, staff and governors have worked incredibly hard to organise your school so that it has remained open and at the same time been as safe as possible.

Despite staff having to self-isolate and bubbles of pupils having to return home and isolate, our schools have remained open. It has been a very frustrating time for everyone, but schools have had to make decisions based on government rules and follow the guidance issued by Public Health England. Some of this advice has been quite conflicting but schools cannot make their own decisions and have had to follow the advice given to them by Public Health England. Head Teachers also had to take care that events were not attended by parents and carers so that they could still take place. If there had been a positive Covid case because of an event, other events would have had to be cancelled and children would miss the end of term activities that they so enjoy. Similarly we welcome the governments good news that bubbles need no longer close if there is a positive case, however with 2 or 3 weeks to go, we think it is more sensible to implement this after the summer break. We are so close to the summer break now, it would be a shame for families not to be able to go on holiday because a bubble wasn't closed.

Let us all hope that in September we can return to a more normal school situation and that the government's positive stance becomes a reality. However, this still cannot be guaranteed and over the summer break we will continue to review any new guidance that we receive and plan for what school provision will look like in the autumn term. All our Head Teachers regularly review the risk assessments for school provision to reflect local circumstances so we can ensure our schools are the safest, yet most productive, they can be. I know they will continue to update you.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding at this time. Your safety and the wellbeing of your children and the school staff are of paramount importance, and we will continue to do everything we can to protect everyone in our school communities.

We hope you are all able to have a good break over the summer and look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Best Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Palmer".

Phil Palmer

CEO Equals Trust

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Peter Foale".

Peter Foale

Chair of the Equals Trust Board