



West Leigh Junior School

Part of the Portico Academy Trust

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CEO – Mrs C. Woolf

25th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

YEAR GROUP 'BUBBLES'

As you are probably aware, we currently operate a COVID-19 restriction measure in which the children, when they are inside the school, must stay in a class 'bubble'. This means they cannot interact and mix with other children from their year group during lesson times.

From this Thursday, July 1st, we intend to change this measure to a year group 'bubble'. This will allow the children, for the last few weeks of term, to mix, work and collaborate with children from the other three classes in their year group. For some time the children have been able to mix as a year group when outside and we have decided to extend this mixing to inside the building from next Thursday.

This new arrangement will allow us to re-launch maths groups where the children mix into two different ability bands. Of course, maths bands will be new to the Year 3 children but all will be explained to them next week prior to the launch on Thursday. It will also allow teachers to organise year group activities if they wish to which could be really quite useful with Olympics Week coming up! They may also arrange physical year group assemblies in one of our halls from July 1st. It will also help with the logistical organisation of the 'Meet the Teacher' session that takes place next Friday as the year group will be free to move around the school as a whole as they will be in a new, wider bubble.

The moving to year group bubbles has been fully risk-assessed and we are confident that the risk of virus transmission remains extremely low in relation to the benefits that this new arrangement will have for the children and the staff. Indeed, many schools already operate year group bubbles with great success. The risk is, of course, that from now on we would have to send home the whole year group to isolate if a bubble burst.

We are sure you will agree that this is the right decision as we think is best for the children, their learning and the whole school experience. The children are being told about the change in today's virtual assembly.

We thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Executive Headteacher

Head of School