



28 February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you had a restful and enjoyable half term.

The government announcement on Monday 21 February has meant several changes for schools when they start back after half-term. DfE guidance has been updated throughout this week with revised operational guidance.

In summary:

- Routine asymptomatic testing is no longer advised in mainstream settings. Twice weekly asymptomatic testing no longer needs to take place on a Wednesday and Sunday. We may be advised by our local public health team to recommend lateral flow device (LFD) tests to students to manage an outbreak if one occurs.
- From 24 February, the Government removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. In addition, the Government will no longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days and routine contact tracing will end.
- **Adults and children who test positive on a PCR, or LFD test, will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.**
- **For staff or children who have any of the main symptoms, the public health advice remains unchanged and is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They should order a PCR test and are advised to stay at home while waiting for the result.**

Schools should continue to report outbreaks to the DfE, but the escalation thresholds have changed. Mainstream settings should seek advice when there is:

- a higher than previously experienced and/or rapidly increasing number of staff or student absences due to Covid-19.
- evidence of severe disease due to Covid-19, such as hospitalisation of a case.
- a cluster of cases where there are concerns about the health needs of vulnerable staff or students.

Now that our numbers of COVID cases have considerably reduced, face coverings are no longer compulsory in communal areas around the school. Students and staff can continue to wear them if they wish to. We would only re-introduce the compulsory wearing of face coverings if we experience another outbreak of COVID-19.

We hope that this “living with COVID guidance” is clear and allows us to move forward, improve our attendance and focus more on learning.

We wish your child a safe and successful term.

Kind regards

Mr Albon

Headteacher

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