



28.02.21

## COVID UPDATES

Dear Parents and Carers

As you know, the Government announcement last Monday demonstrates that there is increasing confidence that the country is moving from a pandemic to living and dealing with COVID-19. Guidance for schools followed which we have used to update our latest risk assessment, contingency plans and school protocols.

As the scientists acknowledge that the virus has not gone away, I want to reassure you that your child's safety has been at the forefront of our decision making throughout this situation and will continue to be our primary consideration moving forwards, along with our duty of care to staff and the wider community.

The DFE school's guidance shows a shift from the word **must** (legally binding) to **should** (strongly advised). With this in mind, a number of operational changes in school will take place:

### Attendance

Attendance is mandatory for all and it is a priority. Those once classed as critically extremely vulnerable (CEV) and vulnerable children are expected to attend school.

### Bubbles

Year groups will remain in bubbles for the first week at least to assess the situation regarding COVID levels following the half term break.

### Classrooms and resources

Children will share school resources, but will continue to have all of their own stationery.

Water fountains will remain out of use.

### Ventilation / sanitising

Classrooms and corridors will continue to be ventilated as best we can.

Children will continue to sanitise their hands regularly throughout the day. Tissues and hand sanitisation stations are available around the school.

### Self-isolation

There is no longer a legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. However, Public Health advice remains the same and anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive test result **should** stay at home and avoid contact with other people to



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avoid spreading the virus to others. It is strongly advised that those who have tested positive for COVID should stay at home for 5 days and test on the 5th day.

The advice goes on to say that you should not send your child to school if they have a temperature or are unwell at all. This is for the safety of everybody. If your child becomes ill whilst at school, you will be asked to collect them immediately. Please ensure that contact details are up to date with the office. If your child displays symptoms of COVID-19 they will be isolated until you arrive. You should then make arrangements for them to be tested, using a PCR. School should be informed of the result as soon as possible.

It is reasonable to accept that schools have the power to refuse admission to a child who has a confirmed case or is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 in order to protect others who attend the setting and their families. Please remember we have clinically vulnerable people who attend our setting and within our families at home and we ask that you respect the advice that is given. It is important that parents communicate with us regarding their child's symptoms and test results so that we can discuss children's needs on a case by case basis as necessary.

### Close contact changes

Close contacts of confirmed cases are no longer advised to take daily lateral flow tests, but they should take steps to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.

'Children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who live with someone who has COVID-19 should continue to attend the setting as normal'.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

Kindest regards

Mrs J Quarrie  
Executive Principal

