

L lifelong learning
U understanding the needs of everyone
D developing ourselves to reach our full potential
W working together
O organising
R respecting one another
T team work
H helping one other



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Dear Parents and Carers,

14.12.21

Advice re Covid Infections

I am writing to remind all parents of the operational guidance around positive COVID cases in schools. As previously informed in my letter to you in September, schools are no longer responsible for contact tracing where there has been a positive case.

Close contacts of infected people will be contacted via NHS Test and Trace. If your child is contacted and identified as a close contact, they do not have to isolate. From Tuesday 14th December, children who are five years old and over are asked to take daily lateral flow tests for seven days after they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace.

This means that, where a positive case is identified in school, we will not be contacting parents as NHS Test and Trace will do this where necessary. However, if we have five or more cases, this will be classed as an outbreak and then we will take advice from Public Health England. Should this happen, we will let you know.

I know that there has been some difficulty in getting lateral flow testing devices, but we are told that this situation is temporary. You also need to test children who are aged five and over daily for seven days if a member of their household tests positive. Children can attend school as long as the lateral flow is negative and they feel well. If children have symptoms of COVID, then they should remain at home and get a PCR test by contacting 119 or booking online. Please inform us of the outcome of this test.

Symptoms of Covid:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

I wrote to you recently about the measures we take in school to help prevent the spread of COVID. This includes:

- Enhanced cleaning of touch points.
- Limited mixing indoors; we no longer have face to face assemblies.
- Children using different entrances and avoidance of mixing in corridors.
- Lunchtime 'sittings' in the dining hall.
- Enhanced hand washing and sanitising.
- Adults and visitors wear masks in public areas of the school.
- Children only mix with other classes outdoors at playtime. We know that the virus is much less likely to spread outdoors.

I will be carefully following developments over the Christmas break and will let you know as soon as possible if there are to be any changes in our routines.

Please have a lovely, safe Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Kind regards,

Mrs J Sones

Executive Head Teacher

