

Headteacher: Mr M Boland

2nd September 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

A very warm welcome back to school.

We hope that you have had a good break and have enjoyed some family time together ready for the start of a busy new year at school.

You will be aware that guidance around managing risks around COVID are changing and we wanted to let you know about how this will affect arrangements in school.

Schools are no longer recommended to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles').

We plan to minimise risk as far as we can to keep groups separate if it does not affect the educational offer. Lunch times will be going back to normal but playtimes have been much better for the children when spread out so we will keep that up for the time being. Movement between classes is acceptable but we will try to keep it to a minimum.

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.

We plan to follow this guidance but will understand if any individuals wish to carry on with masks for their own or others' benefit. **We would also ask to keep the one-way system for drop off and pick up in place for the time being as this minimises contact.**

Ventilation

The latest guidance suggests CO2 monitors for classrooms to keep a check on air quality. We bought some of these last year and they have been in use for some time already.

Management of suspected cases

COVID-19 symptoms that would permit exclusion from school:

- new continuous cough and/or
- fever (temperature of 37.8°C or higher)
- loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Anyone who develops symptoms of COVID-19 should **immediately self-isolate**.

If your child develops any of these symptoms, you must arrange for them to have a PCR test as soon as possible. A PCR test can be arranged via the NHS UK (www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) website or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if you do not have internet access

The **confirmed** case should be advised to self-isolate until the latest of:

- 10 days after the onset of their symptoms

or

- 10 days after their test day if they are asymptomatic

Self-isolation means the child/staff member should

- Not go to school, work or public places
- Not attend any other out of school activities or go around to a friend's house
- Not use public transport or taxis
- Not go out to shop – order shopping online or ask a friend to bring it to your home
- Not have visitors in your home except for people providing essential care
- Not go out to exercise – exercise at home or in your garden, if you have one
- Inform GP practice or hospital or other healthcare setting that they are self-isolating if they must attend in person

Individuals will no longer be required to isolate if they live in the same household or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated*
- they are **below the age of 18 years** and 6 months
- they taking part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

*Fully vaccinated means that they have been vaccinated in the UK, and at least 14 days have passed since they received the recommended doses of that vaccine.

Instead, individuals listed above will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so. Children aged under 5 years old will only be advised to take a PCR test if they are a household contact of a positive case.

Any further lockdown or partial closure will be decided by Public Health and not the school when considering the number of positive infections and the best way to deal with this locally.

Apologies for a long letter but the information is important, and I know that you will appreciate that we are aware of the latest guidance and implementing to keep both the children and you as safe as possible.

Please contact school or speak to me outside school if you would like to discuss further.

I hope we are all able to get back into the routine of what being at a great school feels like for the whole year.

Many thanks for your continuing support.

Yours faithfully

M Boland (Mr)
Headteacher