

Sunday, 27th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all enjoyed a restful and happy half-term break.

Further to the most recent government guidance relating to Covid-19 and self-isolation, I thought it useful to highlight what this will mean for school attendance and our continued efforts to reduce the risk of infection in school.

The position is more hopeful, and this is reflected in the Department of Education's (DfE) shift from the use of the word 'must' (legally binding) to 'should' (strongly advised). Nonetheless, the virus is still with us and so we still need to strike the right balance to ensure the safety and well-being of our whole school community, whilst keeping all classes open so that our children can be in school to continue their learning.

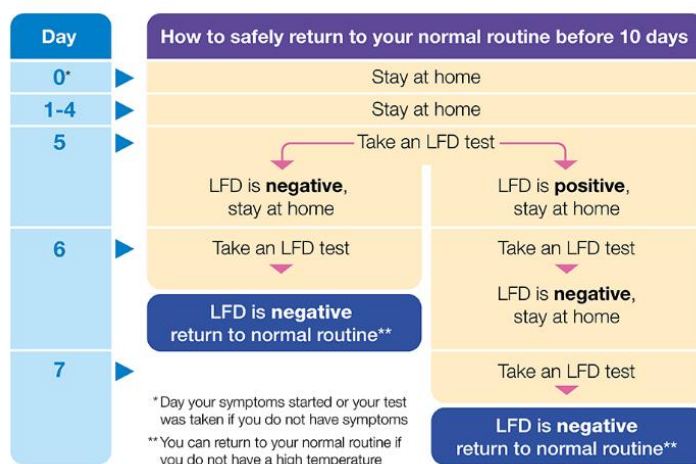
Attendance: This is mandatory for all pupils and staff and remains our priority. Critically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) and vulnerable staff and children will need to attend school.

Close Contacts: Public health advice for [People with COVID-19 and their contacts](#) changed from 24 February. Contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests, and contact tracing has ended.

We will no longer request that your children isolate as close contacts if they are symptom free. However, should they exhibit symptoms, we would ask that you test and keep them at home until they return a negative result and are well enough to attend school.

Positive Cases: While you're no longer required by law to self-isolate if you have COVID-19, you should still stay at home and avoid contact with other people. This helps reduce the chance of passing COVID-19 on to others.

We will ask that children who have returned a positive result remain at home for 10 days or until they return two negative results from day 5 onwards. The first day of symptoms (or test result if asymptomatic) remains as day zero.



Face Coverings: *Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms or communal areas. Staff and pupils should follow [wider advice on face coverings](#) outside of school, including on transport to and from school.*

We will no longer advise the wearing of masks in school or on the school site for both staff and parents. If we experience an outbreak, we will review this advice in line with support from Director of Public Health (DPH)

Outbreak management: If we experience an outbreak, we will work with Director of Public Health (DPH) for advice and support with regard to implementing additional measures to contain the situation.

Hygiene and Cleaning: Frequent and thorough hand cleaning will continue to be part of our regular practice, as will the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. Additional cleaning throughout the day will continue.

Ventilation and Air Quality: We will continue to use the DfE's CO2 monitors in classrooms to check on air quality and air purifying devices to help mitigate the possibility of infection spread. We will keep our windows open to let fresh air into indoor spaces. Children are still required to wear school uniform but may wear extra layers of clothing under or over their uniform if they are cold.

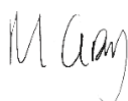
Minimising Contact Between Groups: For the time being, mixing classes during the school day and at wraparound care will be minimised where possible, without disrupting teaching and learning.

Testing: Staff will no longer test at least twice weekly, as per the government's advice. We have been directed that we will no longer receive LFDs and to store our current supply for use in the event of an outbreak.

I will keep you updated of any changes that need to be made as the days and weeks pass. In the meantime, please do get in touch if you have any questions.

We look forward to welcoming you all back to school tomorrow morning.

Best wishes,



Mary Gray
Head of School

