

Dear Parents/Carers

Changes to guidance

When children return to school, it will no longer be necessary to keep them in consistent bubbles. This means that children across the school will once again be able to mix and learn together. We will go back to our normal lunch and play time arrangements and children will have access to more opportunities, such as clubs, visits/visitors and trips etc.

Children are no longer required to isolate if they are a close contact of a positive case of Covid-19. Instead, they will be advised to take a PCR test and will only need to isolate if they receive a positive result. However, children should still isolate if they have symptoms of Covid 19, until they receive a negative result **from a test**.

Asymptomatic testing remains an important part of our risk assessment and staff will continue to test regularly.

What to do if your child has symptoms

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high 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 that you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If they have **any** of these symptoms, they need to [take a PCR test](#) (tests that are sent to a lab) to check if they have coronavirus and **must stay at home** until the result is received, even if the symptoms are mild. Please phone the school and let us know that you are awaiting test results. If they test negative, they may return to school.

Please inform the school of test results as soon as possible.

We will still send pupils home if they are showing any of the above symptoms.

What happens if your child tests positive

If children test positive, their self-isolation period includes the day their symptoms started (or the day they had the test, if they did not have symptoms) and the next 10 full days.

As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace **and not the school**, will make contact with the individual who has tested positive – or, depending on their age, their parent or legal guardian – to identify close contacts. A series of questions will be asked to help identify close, prolonged contacts. NHS Test and Trace will then contact those individuals and advise them to take a PCR test. They do not need to isolate if they are under 18 years old or fully vaccinated.

If the school is made aware of a positive case, we will inform parents/carers of children in relevant classes ONLY. We will do this for information only and pupils in that class should still come to school **UNLESS** they have symptoms.

Face coverings will no longer be required when dropping off or picking up children.

Kind regards



Mrs A Chitty
Head Teacher