



Friday, 11th March 2022

Dear Parents

Covid Guidelines Update

We are now approaching the two-year anniversary of the initial, momentous decision to move wholesale to remote learning, when you as parents took the responsibility for a large majority of our pupils engaging with their school work at home; to those early days when schools worked through what would have been term-time holidays, providing support for our key worker children and delivering food parcels to our families in the most difficulty.

It has been an incredible, historic two years and we are all still working hard to rebuild and repair; back to what we may consider 'normal life'.

We can be grateful that many of us are still here, working together as schools and families, in a country free from war and the terrible threats that others face across the world. Nonetheless, it is worth taking a moment to reflect on the toll the last two years has taken on us all and our families and to look ahead with hope, in the context of the ongoing suffering endured elsewhere.

Following extensive discussions across our schools and the Trust, we have now reached some conclusions about how we are interpreting the latest Government guidelines.

In essence we have agreed:

- Testing is no longer a requirement for pupils and staff and we accept that this may mean asymptomatic Covid cases may be present in school
- Precautionary measures will stay in place, such as washing/sanitising of hands, keeping doors open and one window slightly ajar
- Coats are no longer needed/allowed for pupils indoors
- Masks are not required, but staff and pupils can continue to wear one, should they wish
- All other restrictions, including indoor gatherings (e.g. assemblies) and face to face meetings, will no longer be in place
- If for any reason your son/daughter doesn't feel well enough to come in, particularly if they have symptoms that are likely to be infectious, please can they stay at home
- Remote learning for pupils will continue to be set online for pupils who test positive for Covid, once a Covid absence has been confirmed and within a reasonable timescale at least until the end of the spring term
- Any pupils who have had individual risk assessments due to Covid will have these reviewed in light of this latest guidance for our schools
- We encourage anyone who is eligible for a Covid vaccination (including boosters) to actively pursue this
- Anyone who has been a close contact of somebody who has tested positive for Covid should come into school, but is encouraged to take additional precautions (e.g. mask wearing, keeping your distance and regular hand hygiene)

Outstanding education at the heart of the community

Managing Covid related illness:

- For staff and pupils, and in line with the guidance for schools, anyone with a confirmed Covid infection should not attend school while they are infectious. If their initial symptoms have been confirmed as a Covid infection, then they should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they should return to school, as long as they feel well enough to do so
- If for some reason (e.g. visiting relatives in a care home) you have received a positive Covid test despite being asymptomatic, the above guidance will apply
- Evidence of all of the above will be required
- Absence within the 5-day period, and whilst Covid testing is still positive, will not count towards our usual absence management.
- Absence whilst testing negative will be managed on a case by case basis, in line with current absence management

This guidance will remain in place, unless there is a significant update from the Government, until after the Easter break. After that we will review this again and be back in touch, if any changes are to be made.

Thank you for your ongoing support and diligence with these matters. We look forward to a time when we are fully past this pandemic.

Yours sincerely,

V. Hill

V. Hill - Headteacher