



27th August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope you have all had safe and restful summer break and we look forward to welcoming all of our children back to school on Tuesday 31st August. Please ensure you have read our last newsletter and the communication shared via Class Dojo today detailing our arrangements for children returning to school. This included the new timings for the school day, drop-off and collection points, wraparound care and other key reminders.

You may be aware of the current requirements and guidance shared by the Department for Education (DfE) recently for the reopening of schools this academic year. Please ensure you have read through the points below before the children return to school.

There will be far fewer restrictions than when the children left before the summer holidays. Pupils will now be able to experience a fuller education experience, including, access to more group activities, team sports, playing with friends, plays, taking part in musical activities and joining in collective worship.

There are three key changes:

- 1. Mixing and 'bubbles':** Keeping pupils or students in year group or classroom bubbles to reduce mixing is no longer a requirement.
- 2. Tracing close contacts:** Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace. Education settings are no longer expected to undertake contact tracing.
- 3. Face coverings:** Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.

What will stay the same?

Coronavirus hasn't gone away so there will still be a need for schools, pupils and students to follow basic measures to avoid the spread of the virus:

1. Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools.
2. Ensuring good hygiene including frequent and thorough hand cleaning and the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
3. Maintaining a regular cleaning regime.
4. Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.
5. Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.



SCHOOL
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What if there are a number of cases in the school?

Whilst we anticipate a steady rate of cases through the next period, if there are an increased spike of cases in school, we may consider further steps in conjunction with Public Health England. This could result in the following:

- Increased testing
- Temporarily reintroducing face coverings and;
- Restricting attendance as a short-term measure and only as a last resort.

What if someone tests positive or has symptoms? Do they need to isolate?

Yes, they will need to self-isolate straight away. Please advise the school immediately and get a PCR test (a test that is sent to the lab) on GOV.UK as soon as possible if you have any of these 3 symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

Your child should self-isolate straight away:

- If they have any of the symptoms above or if they test positive either through a PCR or Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test. We kindly request that you contact the school as soon as possible to advise of the situation. If your child develops symptoms or has a positive LFD, test they should book a PCR test.
- If your child has been told to self-isolate following contact with someone who tested positive. Find out what to do if you're told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app.

A positive PCR test cannot be overridden. If a pupil is asked to get a PCR test as a result of contact with a positive case, they may continue to attend education until they get the result of their PCR back.

Your child would **not** need to isolate:

- If someone you live with has symptoms or tested positive. However, we ask that you inform us of a positive case in the household, keep your child socially distanced in the home, clean common contact surfaces in the house regularly (for example, bannisters, door handles) and increase air ventilation by opening doors and windows where possible. Undertake daily lateral flow tests at home.

If your child does have to self-isolate, we will provide our support for learning at home.

Should you require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact the school by emailing Enquiries.NPSB@nishkamschools.org or by telephoning 0121 647 6890.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs G Kaur
Interim Head Teacher