



26th August 2021

Welcome Back

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are excited to write to you all ahead of children returning on Tuesday the 31st August and hope you have all enjoyed a restful and enjoyable summer break. As detailed in the letter at the end of the previous term we are returning to similar procedures to pre-pandemic operation.

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. I share this below and ask that you read these carefully.

Our pupils and families will be returning with far fewer restrictions than when they left before the summer holidays. Now that there are fewer restrictions, pupils will be able to experience a fuller education experience, including, access to more group activities, team sports, playing with friends, plays, and taking part in musical groups.

Drop off and Pick up

We can confirm that, as planned, we will return to a uniform start time of 08:45am and finish time of 15:30pm. KS1 (Years 1 and Year 2) will be asked to come in and leave at the front of the school, through the gates. KS2 (Years 3/4/5 and 6) will enter and leave at the rear of the school through the car park gates. If you have more than one child, please drop them off and pick them up wherever the youngest sibling's entrance point is. EYFS (Reception) parents please adhere to your agreed date/times over this transition period. Further information will be shared closer to the date when your child will attend school full time.

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 staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.

So, 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.

But 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 increased spikes occurring in close vicinity to each other we, in conjunction with Public Health England, may consider introducing measures like:

- 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, 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:

- He or she has tested positive for COVID-19 either according to a PCR test or a lateral flow device test – this means you have the virus. If you get a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test you 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](#).
- If your child develops symptoms or has a positive LFD test they should book a PCR test. 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 regularly common contact surfaces in the house (for example, bannisters, door handles) and increase air ventilation by opening doors and windows where possible. Undertake daily lateral flow tests at home.

In addition, all clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) children and young people should attend their education setting unless they are one of the very small number of children and young people under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their clinician or other specialist not to attend.

If your child does have to self-isolate we will provide support for learning at home. Should you require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,



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