



27th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you have had an enjoyable half term. Thank you for your support over the past few weeks, when levels of staff absence were very high and some classes had to be closed.

You will be aware of the changes announced by the government last week, and while there is no longer a legal requirement to self-isolate, the guidance for schools and parents is clear:

1. Anyone who has the main symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive on an LFD test should stay at home, avoid contact with other people and take a PCR test.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges>

As before, the main symptoms are:

- recent onset of a new continuous cough
- high temperature
- loss of or change in normal sense of taste and/or smell

Further detail is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts>

2. Children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend school while they are infectious. They should take an LFD test from day 5 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 test results are negative, pupils can return to school, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature.

We ask for your support to keep our pupils and staff as safe as possible and urge you to follow public health advice on **when to self-isolate and what to do**. If you insist on your child attending school when they have symptoms, we are advised we can take the decision to refuse your child if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.

3. Pupils who live with someone who has COVID-19 should continue to attend the setting as normal.

4. Staff and secondary-age pupils in specialist SEND settings are advised to continue regular twice weekly LFD testing, wherever possible.

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5. Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms or communal areas. However, for the time being, we will continue with our current arrangements, allowing staff to wear a face covering in communal areas where close contact with others is unavoidable. We would appreciate your support in explaining this arrangement to your child.

We will continue to inform parents/carers when there is a positive COVID-19 case in their child's class. Any change to normal in-school provision due to high levels of staff absence will be for the shortest possible time and for as few pupils as possible. We recognise the inconvenience this can cause and would ask for your support and cooperation with any such request. As ever, the safety of our pupils and staff is our first priority.

Please get in touch if you have any questions or feedback.

Yours sincerely

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