



## Updated Risk Assessment

9.11.2021

Dear parents and carers,

I do hope you and your families are well.

As you know the local region has a high rate of covid-19 at present. Our aim is to continue teaching a broad curriculum while reducing the rate of covid-19 in school to keep adults and children in our community well. We are also trying to minimise disruption to learning for children through staff having to self-isolate.

We reviewed our RA before term started and have reviewed it again with staff this term. We have altered some measures to reduce the risk of spreading covid; we will avoid classes mixing inside for assemblies - assemblies will take place via teams now, children in different classes will not sing together; staff will reduce contact between teaching teams as much as possible and reduce being in close contact with parents/visitors as much as possible too; group gatherings will be reviewed individually to support measures being put in place to reduce risk – these measures may include using the largest space available, socially distancing within the space, venting the space, reducing numbers at the event, wearing face coverings, pinch points considered so staggered start/end times, cancelling the event. **We ask that parents wear face coverings at drop off and pick up – unless except – as we know these are busier times of the day.** We are not moving to working in bubbles at this point as it impacts negatively on children and staff – if we have an outbreak, like some other local schools, we are likely to be asked to put this measure in place. Additional hand washing/sanitising, cleaning at lunch time, room ventilation etc continue to be in place. Please find the latest RA attached. The latest RA is always on the school website too.

Christmas is drawing upon us and we know this is a special time for children. We do not know how we will run Christmas performances at this point. Staff have been asked to plan for a typical performance with classes mixing and for a smaller class performance without classes mixing. We will make choices nearer the time depending on the local rate/guidance etc.

Please find a reminder of the guidance regarding covid-19 below for your information. Please note anyone with COVID-19 [symptoms](#) or a positive LFT/PCR test result should stay at home and self-isolate immediately. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should arrange to have a PCR test as soon as possible. This still applies even if you have received one or more doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

If you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, you should stay at home and self-isolate unless you are fully vaccinated, or aged under 18 years and 6 months. ([those not required to self-isolate if you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-](#)

19). You will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed you have been in close contact with a positive case. You will be advised to take a [PCR test](#).

I hope the more detailed information from our RA below is helpful too. I have tried to include weblinks as the guidance is updated often.

With many thanks for your continued support and help,

Zoe Avastu

Headteacher

### **INFORMATION RELATED TO COVID SYMPTOMS, TESTING AND SELF-ISOLATION**

- At present NHS states covid symptoms as: a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours: a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal. See the link for symptoms in children/adults: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/> )
- Pupils, staff, parents and other adults should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or have other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).
- If a child shows symptoms of Covid-19 at school (temperature, cough etc.), we will need to ask parents to collect them in the interests of infection control, even if they do not feel unwell. This means that even if a parent/carer thinks they are actually struggling with another medical need such as hay fever or asthma parents will be asked to collect their child from school – this is because, in this instance, it will not be suitable for children/staff members to be exposed to a child who is repeatedly sneezing or coughing.
- Close contacts\* will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.
- Individuals are not required to self-isolate when they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19/are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, **if any of the following apply:**
  - they are fully vaccinated
  - they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
  - they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial

- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a [PCR test](#).

- Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the [stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#). They will also need to [get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19](#).

Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual does not have COVID-19 symptoms.

- School will contact School Education Helpline: Telephone: 0800 046 8687 Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm / our LA support officer for advice when needed.

School will contact our local [health protection team if needed](#), as soon as we have an overall rise in suspected cases. Our actions will be guided by their advice.

### ***\*What is meant by a contact***

*A contact is a person who has been close to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 with a [polymerase chain reaction \(PCR\) test](#). You can be a contact anytime from 2 days before the person who tested positive developed their symptoms, and up to 10 days after, as this is when they can pass the infection on to others.*

*A contact can be:*

- *anyone who lives in the same household as someone with COVID-19 symptoms or who has tested positive for COVID-19*
- *anyone who has had any of the following types of contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 with a PCR test:*
  - *face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation within one metre*
  - *been within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact*
  - *been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)*
  - *travelled in the same vehicle or a plane*