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2/9/21

Dear Parents

We are really looking forward to welcoming you all back on **Monday 6th September** and we hope you all had a lovely summer.

What you need to know for the return to school

- In the mornings drop off will remain the same – between 8.45-9.00am at the gate.
- Please continue to give any messages to the member of staff on the gate, or you can call or email the school office, or use the Parent App.
- At the end of the day you will be able to come into the playground to collect your children at 3.30pm. (all classes). Once you have collected your children please leave straight away and avoid congregating with other parents.
- Face coverings will be personal choice.
- Your child will still be sent home and need to get a PCR test if they have any of the Covid symptoms. Children under 18 years old and adults fully vaccinated do not need to isolate if they are a close contact with someone who has tested positive, however you will be informed by Track and Trace to take PCR tests. This will mean that we will not have to close classes if there is a positive Covid case.
- We will still continue to follow good hand hygiene procedures (regular hand washing / sanitising) and regular, thorough cleaning around school.
- Your child can come to school wearing their PE kit on PE days.
- We are hoping to get some after school clubs up and running soon. You will receive a separate letter about this in due course.
- Teachers will be available in the playground **after school on Monday 6th September** to answer any of your questions and give you further information about what will be happening in your child's class this year.
- Breakfast Club and After School Club will be open. Please contact your child's school for more information.
- We are taking a blended approach to whole school events such as assemblies. Some will remain on Google Meet and some will now be face to face.
- School trips will now go ahead and you will be informed of any planned trips by letter.

Changes to contact tracing in education and childcare settings – Guidance from the Government

As you know, the Prime Minister announced on 12 July that Step 4 of the roadmap would go ahead on 19 July.

One of the key changes that took place from the 19 July is that education and childcare settings will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case – or in the case of children – the parents, carers or guardian of the positive case to identify close contacts.



NHS Test and Trace already manages the contact tracing process for the rest of society – including children who have recorded a positive PCR test – and has expertise in supporting people to identify close contacts.

This letter sets out in more detail below how that process will work and what you need to do if your child tests positive for COVID-19.

Self-isolating and taking a test

1. **If your child has symptoms**, they and other members of the household should self-isolate (not children under 18 years old or adults fully vaccinated) – and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a PCR test for them. If the PCR result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, they, other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms (not children under 18 years old or adults fully vaccinated).
2. If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test, they and other members of the household (not children under 18 years old or adults fully vaccinated) should self-isolate – and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the confirmatory PCR test is positive (or is taken more than two days after the LFD), other members of their household and any close contacts (not children under 18 years old or adults fully vaccinated) identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the LFD test.
3. PCR tests can be booked online through the [NHS Test & Trace website](#) or by calling 119.
4. PCR test results will be recorded with NHS Test and Trace automatically, but you should also communicate the result to the education or childcare setting during term time or summer provision.

Contact tracing

5. If your child gets a positive PCR test result, NHS Test and Trace will contact you, using the details you registered when ordering the PCR test. You and/or your child will be asked a series of specific questions designed to identify who your child has been in close contact with. Being in an education or childcare setting with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact.
6. You will be asked to provide the contact details, if you know them, of any of the individuals – or their parents or guardians – who have been identified as close contacts. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch with these close contacts and provide appropriate instructions or advice (see below).

Self-isolation and/or testing of close contacts

7. **From 16 August, if the close contact is under 18 or an adult fully vaccinated, they will not have to self-isolate (in line with the policy for fully vaccinated adults) but will be asked to take a PCR test immediately**, other than for very young children identified as non-household contacts, and they will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test. If the PCR test is positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch to identify close contacts (see points 5 and 6 above). Further guidance on these changes to self-isolation will be provided shortly.

8. Anyone identified as a close contact who is over 18 years old and not fully vaccinated is required to self-isolate. Anyone identified as a non-household close contact by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of their most recent contact with that person. If they live in the same household, they must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of that person developing symptoms (see point 1 above) or, if that person was asymptomatic, the date of their test (see point 2 above). NHS Test and Trace will notify you of the day on which the self-isolation period ends.

9. Close contacts are also advised to take a PCR test. If the test result is negative, they must still complete the full self-isolation period, as the test will not detect all positive cases. If the result is positive, they will need to self-isolate for a further 10 days – and NHS Test and Trace will contact them to identify any close contacts.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hour (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Anyone displaying Coronavirus symptoms in school will be sent home immediately and will need to follow the Government guidelines for self isolation. The infectious period is 48 hours before the first symptoms plus 10 days afterwards - 12 days total.

Please contact the school if you have any questions. We are here to help.

Kind regards

K Wooder.

Kate Wooder
Executive Head

