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4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

### **Returning to school**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are looking forward to welcoming back children and getting our Spring term underway. We have some revised guidance relating to Covid infection management which will help us all continue to keep safe.

Before returning to the school site, we strongly encourage that your child does a Lateral Flow Test. If your child's LFT is positive, please keep them at home, book a PCR test and inform the school office. Until your child has had a negative PCR result they will need to remain at home.

Please be vigilant about any illness that your child has and consider if your child should be at school. If your child has symptoms of Covid they need to have a PCR test.

We will continue cautious infection control measures for children who are unwell or displaying Covid symptoms and may contact you to collect your child. Your child will be waiting in a specified room to minimise any contact with others.

School starts at 8.50am. We operate a 10 minute drop off window from 8.40am so that parents can plan journeys and to avoid over crowding. We find that the times when the gates open for drop off and pick up are the busiest so you may wish to plan your travel accordingly.

Upon returning to school, if there is a confirmed positive PCR result from an individual in your child's class, we will send a notification email for your information. Children can still attend school as normal unless symptomatic. NHS Test and Trace will continue to notify close contacts who may need to test or isolate.

#### **New self-isolation guidance from NHS:**

- If you test positive, your self-isolation period includes the day your symptoms started (or the day you had the test, if you do not have symptoms) and the next 10 full days.
- If you get symptoms while you're self-isolating, the 10 days restarts from the day after your symptoms started.
- You can stop self-isolating after 7 days if you do a rapid lateral flow test on days 6 and 7 of your self-isolation period and:
  - both tests are negative
  - you did both tests at least 24 hours apart
  - you do not have a high temperature
- If you do a rapid lateral flow test on day 6 and test positive, wait 24 hours before you do the next test.
- Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.
- Close contacts: If you are fully vaccinated or aged under 18 years and 6 months, and you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, you are not legally required to self-isolate. However, you are strongly advised to take an LFD test every day for 7 days, and to self-isolate if any of these test results is positive.

### **Adults on the school site**

All adults in school are required to wear masks. When talking with a member of school staff outside masks are encouraged, as is maintaining a distance of 2m. If you require a longer conversation with a member of staff, please contact the school office to arrange for a telephone call.

### **Remote learning**

There may be high levels of staff absence this term. However, we will use our best endeavours to ensure that children are able to continue their learning on site. As such, your child may not be taught or supported by the adult that is usually with them and we may not be able to inform parents of this in advance. In extreme circumstances, some classes may not be able to come into school for learning and will switch to remote provision.

Where children have Covid but are asymptomatic, we are able to provide remote learning using Tapestry in the Infants and Seesaw in the Juniors. Please do advise the school office if your child is well enough to complete this.

### **The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:**

- a high temperature
- 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

### **What to do if your child has symptoms:**

If your child has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, even if they're mild:

- Get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if they have COVID-19 as soon as possible.
- Your child should stay at home and not have visitors (self-isolate) until you get the test result – they can only leave home to have the test.

### **Vaccinations for children under 12**

The NHS are managing this and will contact parents directly.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Geddes                      Mrs Flitton  
Headteacher – Infants      Headteacher - Juniors