



28 February 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

Updated COVID Guidance

I hope you have all had a restful half term and did not suffer too much damage from Storm Eunice last week.

In light of the government announcements over the holiday period and the various updates reflecting the removal of the legal requirement for people with Covid to self-isolate from 24 February, I wanted to add some clarity around the expectations for pupils and staff experiencing Covid symptoms.

The public health advice is still to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if your child has any of the main symptoms of Covid or a positive test result:

- If your child has any of the following: recent onset of a new continuous cough; a high temperature; or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell, you should order a PCR test (although free access to these will no longer be available from 1 April). Advice is still to stay at home and avoid contact with other people while waiting for the test result.
- If the test is positive, continue to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.
- If you are able to, let close contacts know about positive test result.
- Before returning to school an LFD should be taken from five days after their symptoms started followed by another one the next day. If both these test results are negative, they should return, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature.
- Close contacts can continue to attend school unless they experience symptoms.

LFD tests will no longer be issued by the school unless there is an outbreak in any year groups, and this will be communicated to parent and guardians.

What is not changing

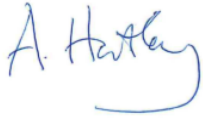
We will continue to ventilate all spaces used by children and staff in school. Hygiene measures (hand washing and cleaning routines) will also remain in place. We will continue to monitor and report cases as required and offer advice for families with positive cases.

I appreciate that the current changes may bring more questions than answers. Some families will be pleased to see the changes, while others will be extremely worried about what it means for them. As always, we will take a balanced approach that aims to enable children to have all the opportunities we can provide, while keeping them as safe as we can.

I am proud of the way our whole school community - but particularly the children - have navigated the difficulties and challenges of the last two years, and I'm confident that whatever comes next, we will continue to show our school values in all we do to get through it all together.

As always, thank you for all of your support, as we navigate this ever-changing landscape.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Hartley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andy Hartley
Headteacher