

Dear Parents

It has been lovely to welcome the children back and hope that you all had a restful and enjoyable half term. I am sure that you will be aware that over half term there was a further announcement regarding changes to the self-isolation guidelines. It is wonderful that after two years, we are moving towards life without Covid restrictions, but thought it would be helpful to outline the latest Covid-19 guidance.

From Thursday 24 February, the Government will remove the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.

When should my child not attend school?

The legal requirement for those who have tested positive for Covid-19 to isolate has now been removed. However, those who have tested positive for Covid-19 should not come to school and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.

We have a duty of care to everyone in our school community. Anyone who is symptomatic or has tested positive should not attend school until after five-day isolation has been completed, followed by either two negative lateral flow tests or the temperature/symptoms have passed.

When should a Covid-19 test be taken?

If your child has cold symptoms, we would recommend giving them a Lateral Flow Test, if you have any left. This isn't government advice - but seems like common sense.

If a child is unwell with one of the main symptoms:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- you've lost your sense of smell or taste, or they've changed

They should still take a PCR test. The system for this still has not changed.

When should children attend school?

If they are well and Covid-19 symptom-free. This includes being in close contact with someone who has tested positive.

Will the school still tell us when there is a confirmed case in school?

No, as the requirement for asymptomatic testing has been removed along with the need to isolate for contacts, we will no longer inform parents of any in-school cases. The NHS track and trace system has also now been ceased.

We will, of course, continue to monitor the situation closely and follow all of the latest guidance.

Although these are now guidelines rather than legal requirements, we hope that our school community will choose to adhere to these recommendations for everyone's safety. This will help to ensure that we all remain well and able to continue to provide high quality education for your children.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Medicott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a stylized 'M'.

Mr P Medicott
Executive Head Teacher