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Thursday 20th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

as you would expect, we are constantly monitoring the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 we have within our school setting at any one time so that we are aware at the earliest opportunity if the number of cases meets the threshold set by the Government. When the threshold is met, we are required to consider whether temporary, additional COVID -19 control measures are required.

The threshold set by the Government is:

- Five children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period, OR
- 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period.

We are writing to all parents/carers to explain the additional, temporary measures we have put in place from today as 10% cases have been identified in Year 1, and this meets the threshold.

We know that you may find this concerning, but it is recognised that education settings may meet the threshold from time to time and we are continuing to monitor the situation and work closely with Public Health England and our local authority.

The fact that you are receiving this letter does not mean that your child is a contact of case. If your child has been identified as a contact of a confirmed case, you will have received a separate letter advising you of this or you should have been contacted by NHS Test and Trace.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

The measures that we have put in place across the school are:

- Year 1 to be excluded from whole school assemblies until their case numbers fall.
- All staff will continue wearing masks in common areas beyond 27<sup>th</sup> January where this requirement is due to end.
- Reducing staff working across year groups where possible.
- The effected year group not mixing with other year groups inside the building – including after school clubs, being sat on their own class table at lunchtime and kept together in breakfast club.
- Continued ventilation and outdoor activities.
- Regular cleaning of surfaces.
- Temporary suspension of volunteers in Year 1.



All of these temporary, additional measures aim to reduce transmission of COVID-19 in school, and a review will be carried out shortly to decide whether some or all of the additional measures can be removed or whether they should remain in place.

Scheduled reviews are in addition to the daily monitoring of case numbers in the school.

If any further measures are recommended, we will share the details with you as soon as possible.

### **What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19**

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are the recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child develops any of these symptoms, then arrangements should be made for them to take a PCR test as soon as possible.

Your child should remain at home while awaiting the PCR test result.

Testing can be arranged by calling 119 or via the NHS website: [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)

Please keep us informed of the result of the test.

### **What to do if your child is generally unwell**

If your child is unwell with general symptoms such as a sore throat, runny nose, and/or headache/muscles aches, they should not attend school to avoid spreading infection within the school setting. On advice from the Health Protection team, we will send students home if we believe they present a risk of infection to other students.

### **What to do if your child is a close contact of someone who has COVID-19**

We would ask all parents/carers of children in school to undertake daily LFD tests for their child/children if they are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19. Please note that your child can attend school while waiting for the results of a PCR test providing that they do not have any symptoms.

### **Daily Testing of Household Contacts of a Positive Case (e.g., Siblings)**

In addition to the above advice, you may also be aware that the Director of Public Health has recommended that if one individual in a household tests positive, any children and young people in that household who attend school or college should:

- Take a daily LFD test for seven consecutive days from the date the household contact first developed symptoms or tested positive (whichever is the sooner)
- Continue to attend school provided that their test results (PCR if symptomatic or LFD) are negative
- Self-isolate for 10 full days from the date of the test if any of their test results are positive or 6 days if tested LFD negative on day 5 and 6.

Please note: LFD tests are only suitable for children aged five and above.





Re-testing within a 90 Day Period In light of the Omicron variant, the guidance relating to re-testing within a 90-day period has changed, and pupils are now encouraged to take part in regular asymptomatic testing with LFD tests even if they have previously tested positive in the last 90 days. If an individual is re-tested within 90 days of a previous positive PCR test, and the result of the test is positive, the individual must self-isolate again, and their household contacts must self-isolate, unless they are double vaccinated or are under 18 years and six months.

The guidance can be found at this link:

Stay at home: [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection)

Changes to self-isolation period for people living in England, guidance on self-isolation has recently changed allowing, in some circumstances, the period of self-isolation to be reduced to 6 days. Individuals can take LFD tests on day 5 and day 6 of their self-isolation period, taken 24 hours apart, and if both are negative that person may end their self-isolation on day 6, and will be able to return to school.

### **Confirmatory PCR test changes**

From 11th (to 26 January 2022 initially), in England, individuals who test positive for COVID-19 on a LFD test will be required to self-isolate immediately and will no longer require a confirmatory PCR test. PCR tests will still be required for people who develop one of the three main symptoms, and they should self-isolate while awaiting results. This is only a temporary measure and you will be informed if the guidance changes, and confirmatory PCR tests are again recommended.

Class teachers will set work for any children who are isolating at home, but they should only participate in the work if they feel well enough to do so. Please continue to stay in contact if your child is unwell so that we can offer you support as appropriate, and please ensure that you report any absence to the school office.

Thank you for your continued support and please rest assured that we will continue to monitor the situation carefully and to be guided by the advice of our Local Public Health Team. I will keep you updated as necessary.

Yours sincerely,

J.Randle  
Headteacher

