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Monday 6th September 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

we hope that you have had a fabulous summer break; we are very excited to be welcoming the children back into school today.

This letter contains really important information on what to do should any child receive a positive COVID PCR test. There is a lot of information in this letter, so please take the time to read it fully, thank you.

Masks

Our staff will continue to wear masks in school when they cannot socially distance from each other. Whilst masks are not mandatory for parents, we would encourage you wear them during drop off and pick up, and when visiting the school office, thank you.

The School Day

The school gate will open in the morning at 8.40am and close at 9.00am. You will be able to enter or leave site via the single side gate during morning drop off and afternoon pick up, and we ask that you drop and go as quickly as possible in the morning. In the afternoon, the gate will open at 3.05pm and close at 3.40pm. Early Years and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 - 2) will be dismissed at 3.15pm and Key Stage 2 (Years 3 – 6) will be dismissed at 3.20pm. Please continue to social distance from other parents, and as above, mask wearing will be optional, but encouraged. We ask that children arrive on time, and parents leave the school premises promptly.

To help parents socially distance from each other we will continue to use classroom doors for entry into school and for collection at the end of the day.

Grouping of Children

We will no longer be maintaining our distinct year group bubbles; however, we will continue to minimise whole school contact between the children to reduce mixing.

Classroom Set Up

The classrooms will return to a more normal layout and tables will be arranged according to the class teacher's preference.

Assemblies

Assemblies will resume but on a smaller scale initially. Years R, 1 and 2 together, Years 3,4, 5 and 6 together. This will be reviewed during the term as to whether we will return to inviting parents in for our celebration assemblies.

School Uniform

Children need to return to school wearing their school uniform. A Chowbent Primary logo top for all children is our standard uniform. Children should wear black shoes or trainer shoes, not other types of footwear. The only exception to this will be the day when each year group are doing PE lessons when we shall continue to ask you to send your child in to school in their P.E. kit (we found this saved a lot of teaching time last year). A reminder that PE kit should consist of a white t-shirt, either plain or with a Chowbent logo and dark blue/black shorts. Dark blue/black joggers and sweatshirt/zip



top can be worn in colder weather. Football kits or other logo items are not permitted. The cloakrooms will be back in use for the children to store their coats and bags.

Lunch and Snacks

We've found that our staggered break and lunch times have worked really well and so are going to continue with these. The children will go straight into the hall for lunch or straight out to play after their last morning lesson. The classes have been grouped so that mixing between different year groups is reduced. A reminder that we are operating a healthy snack policy for morning break. The children should not bring in sweets, chocolate, or crisps for this. Staff will be putting these items back in the children's bags to take home.

Water Bottles. Please ensure you send your child in with a named water bottle each day, this will come home with them to be washed.

Medication.

Should your child require any regular medication please contact the school office who will send you the relevant information or form to be completed.

Jewellery/Hair.

Please ensure that all long hair is securely tied up before your child comes into school and they should also remove all jewellery, and hoop earring. Thank you.

Enhanced Cleaning

We will continue to use enhanced cleaning of the toilets and main touch point areas. This is on top of the usual after school cleaning service that we already have in place. Children will continue to be directed to use regular handwashing and hygiene to help stop the spread of any infections, including covid if present.

Ventilation

Ventilation continues to be one of the main measures we have been advised to continue by Public Health. Doors and windows will be regularly kept open, so please ensure your children are appropriately dressed to stay warm as the autumn months approach.

Mandatory Attendance

Children's attendance in school will continue to be mandatory from the start of this term. Absence will therefore be recorded in the usual way, and parents need to inform the office if their child is going to be absent from school.

Leave of absence requests will need to be completed for any planned absences (other than medical appointments) and sanctions will be enforced for unauthorised leave. You can access a leave of absence form on our school website, or pop into the school office.

Communication

Please continue to monitor your email and Class Dojo for updates on school. Please abide by our rules for the use of social media and Class Dojo when using these platforms.

We're very much looking forward to returning to a more normal feeling school day and hope you feel reassured about the plans we have put in place. Please contact our school office if you have any questions or require further clarification.

Kind regards,
J.Randle
Headteacher

COVID Advice for School Settings 27th August 2021.

How COVID-19 will be managed in the school this term.

CHANGES TO NATIONAL SELF-ISOLATION GUIDANCE From 16 August, the Government has said that people aged under 18 years and 6 months or who are fully vaccinated will no longer be legally required to isolate if they are a close contact of

someone with COVID-19. Instead, such people will be told to get a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the previous 90 days. Regardless of age or vaccination status, anyone who develops any of the three main COVID-19 symptoms (see below) must get a PCR test as soon as possible and isolate until the result is available. People who get a positive PCR test must continue to isolate as usual.

Some likely scenarios are described below along with our advice:

What should I do if my child develops COVID-19 symptoms?

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- new continuous cough and/or
- fever (temperature of 37.8°C or higher)
- loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia) If your child develops any of these symptoms, you must arrange for them to have a PCR test as soon as possible. A PCR test can be arranged via the NHS UK (www.nhs.uk) website or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if you do not have internet access. Your child should self-isolate immediately and they should not attend school. Please contact the school by phone to inform us your child has COVID-19 symptoms and you are awaiting a COVID-19 test.

What should I do if my child has COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test?

Anyone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test should self-isolate until the latest of:

- 10 days after the onset of their symptoms, or
- 10 days after their test day if they are asymptomatic

Self-isolation means your child should not go to school, attend any out of school activities or visit a friend's house. They should not visit any public places, use public transport or go out to exercise. You should not have visitors into the home except for those providing essential care. Please contact the school by phone and inform us your child has COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test. It is really important you let us know if your child has confirmed COVID-19 so we can monitor the number of children with COVID-19 across the school.

What should I do if my child is a contact of someone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test?

If your child is aged under 18 years and 6 months and does not have any symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell) they do not have to self-isolate as a contact of COVID-19. They will need to have a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days. Children aged 5 and under are not advised to take a PCR test unless the confirmed case is someone in their own household.

What should I do if my child has a positive result on a lateral flow device test?

If your child has a positive result on a lateral flow device test, they should self-isolate immediately and you should arrange a PCR test as soon as possible. Other members of the household do not need to self-isolate whilst you await the PCR test result if they do not have symptoms and are aged under 18 years and 6 months or are fully vaccinated.

What should I do if my child is unwell with signs of an infection but does not have symptoms of COVID-19?

Your child should be excluded from school if they are unwell. If concerned you should seek advice from your GP or Pharmacist, they will be able to advise you how long your child should stay off school. Otherwise we would recommend exclusion for 48 hours or until the child is symptom free, whichever is longer. If you are unsure, please contact the school office who have a list of illnesses which require your child to stay at home and which do not.