

## Covid Key Updates – Questions and Answers

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are so much looking forward to this new academic year and hopefully a year which will be less disruptive and allow us to operate in a much less restrictive way. We must of course, still proceed with a level of caution, but I thought it would be helpful to update you with some key information and hopefully answer any questions you may have.

### Will the school inform us if there is a positive case of COVID-19 in school?

- We are no longer responsible for track and trace as this now sits with NHS Track and Trace Team and we will work in partnership with them and you as parents. We will however send out letters which will WARN and INFORM you of any cases in the school community and give advice and support.

### Will the school close my child's class or bubble if there is a case of Covid -19?

- **No-** we are no longer required to close classes should there be a positive case in school. We will inform you as parents that there has been a positive case within your child's class and ask you to remain vigilant for any symptoms. You may be contacted via Track and Trace if your child is identified as a close contact and advice given – this may include seeking a PCR test for your child.

### What do I do if my child has symptoms?

- If your child has any symptoms related to Covid -19 you **should NOT send your child** to school and seek a **PCR test**. Please inform the school office on 353125 as soon as possible. If your child develops any symptoms whilst in school, we will continue with our isolation procedures and ask you to come and collect your child and seek a test.

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
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- If the test is negative and only when your child should feel well enough can they return to school. If the test is positive the child would need to isolate for 10 days and you would be contacted through the NHS Track and Trace team who will give you the most up to date help and advice.

### What do I do if my child tests positive?

- If the PCR test is positive your child would need to isolate for **10 days** from the date of the positive test result and you would be contacted through the NHS Track and Trace team who will give you the most up to date help and advice. If your child tests positive using an LFD test – they should then also seek a PCR test to confirm the positive result. If the PCT test is taken within 2 days of the LFD and is negative, then the negative PCR result would override the previous LFD result and the child can come out of isolation.

### What if, as a parent I must isolate, but my child has tested negative?

- The expectation from the Government is for all children who can attend school to be in school. If you cannot get your child to school because you are isolating, then ring the school office and we will be able to discuss ways in which we can support getting your child to school.

### **Does my child have to isolate if someone in the household or class tests positive for Covid -19?**

- Children who are close contacts of someone with Covid 19 are no longer required to isolate, but they are advised to get a PCR test, and they are a higher risk of developing Covid 19 in the days after the contact. **They do not need to isolate** while they wait for the result unless they have symptoms **and can still attend school.**

### **As a parent do I need to wear a face covering whilst on the school site?**

- At the present time it is optional to wear a face covering outside the building, but you will be required to wear a face covering if you need to come inside the building for any reason unless you are exempt due to medical reasons. Should we see a surge in cases we may need to revert back to our original measures prior to the summer break.

### **What measures are being taken to restrict transmission of COVID-19?**

We have updated our risk assessment in line with the latest Government guidance and continue to work closely with the Local Authority and Public Health. Some of the measures we

- Regular handwashing.
- Twice weekly testing of all staff
- Onsite cleaner employed throughout the day to keep high touch surfaces clean.
- Mask wearing for visitors to the site indoors
- Increased ventilation and use of CO2 monitors to identify areas of potential reduced air flow
- Maximising opportunities for outdoor learning
- Continued ventilation procedures

### **Will parents be able to come inside the school building for meetings and assemblies?**

**Yes** – we will be inviting parents into school for our Friday assemblies, but this will be usually limited to 1 adult per child in the first instance. As before if you wish to speak to your child's class teacher about anything related to your child then please call the school via telephone to discuss.

Many thanks for your continued support

Mrs Claire Mudd and the Wheeler Team