

Dear Families,

I hope that you enjoyed the summer holidays and that your children have settled in this week and last.

Last academic year was very different for schools and whilst the changes we had in place were necessary to control the spread of the virus, we appreciate that they caused disruption to children and families. Following the latest operational guidance for schools I have summarised some of the main points. You can find our school risk assessment on the website in the tab covid-19/school information. You can refer to the government's revised guidance for schools at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

What is staying the same?

- If your child develops symptoms of Covid-19 (a new continuous cough, a high temperature, a loss or change to their sense of taste or smell), they must **not** come to school and should remain at home. They must get a PCR test as soon as possible and isolate until the result is available.
- If your child tests positive for Covid-19, they must still isolate for 10 days. Any brothers or sisters may still attend IF they test negative, they no longer need to isolate.
- Hygiene and cleaning routines will continue to be part of everyday practice and will remain a high priority. Hand sanitising and hand washing will continue to remain a focus. We would ask that all parents and carers follow the same hygiene measures at home.
- Attendance continues to be mandatory. All children are expected to attend school and all rules on school attendance apply.
- We continue to follow all guidelines the government produce which includes having a clear risk assessment in place as well as having a robust plan for any Covid outbreaks that may occur. This document can be found on our school website.
- Thorough cleaning of the classrooms will continue to take place daily.
- All working areas within the building will continue to remain well-ventilated (windows and doors open) where safe and appropriate to do so and a comfortable teaching environment will be maintained by increasing the heating where necessary. Children are permitted to wear additional items of clothing in addition to the school's uniform, such as fleeces, extra layers etc.
- We continue to ask parents to wait in designated areas when dropping off and collecting children. This makes the busy times of day more efficient.
- Children will bring a personal water bottle to school, that will be taken home each day, cleaned and refilled at home ready for the following day.
- Children must not bring any toys or teddies to school.
- Breakfast Club and will continue to run.

What is different to last year?

- Contact tracing will be carried out by NHS Test and Trace so the correct advice can be offered to contacts. Any contacts aged under 18 years and 6 months will be exempt from isolation. Therefore, in the event of a positive case in a class, the positive case will isolate, but the rest of the class will not have to.
- It is no longer necessary to keep children in consistent groups or 'bubbles'. For the vast majority of the time of course, children will continue to remain within their class and year group. For phonics, breaktimes, lunchtimes, assemblies, Breakfast Club and After School Club etc, children will be allowed to mix with others as they used to do.
- Assemblies will resume.
- We expect that performances will be able to have a limited audience... we're already thinking about our Harvest & Christmas Shows, which will take place in the second half of the Autumn Term.
- Educational day trips can go ahead.
- An outbreak management plan has been written alongside the risk assessment. The school's outbreak management plan covers the possibility that it may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' or other measures for a temporary period.

## Safety measures - How you can help?

As well as following the arrangements our school has put in place, you can also help by:

- Reinforcing with your child the need for good respiratory hygiene, by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach, which school will be doing.
- Continuing to wash hands regularly - this remains one of the best preventative measures against the virus.
- Not sending your child to school if they have Covid symptoms or test positive. Please still notify the school immediately in these circumstances.
- Taking part in the NHS Test and Trace process if your child develops symptoms so that cases can be identified quickly - this means, you should arrange for them to get a PCR test and let school know the results.

I am sure that this year is going to hold many surprises for us all as always, but we will face anything that comes our way with positivity and remain honest and open at all times. We have a great curriculum planned and lots of opportunities for experiences which we have missed being able to provide previously.