



13th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Below is a summary of the key changes to COVID -19 management for schools. This information has been taken directly from the DfE website. Please contact the school should you need any further information.

COVID update - Key information for September 2021

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age. This means it's your legal duty as a parent to send your child to school regularly. *Please see our policy on attendance for more details which was shared earlier this year and can be found on our website.*

All clinically extremely vulnerable children and young people should attend their education setting unless they are one of the very small number of children and young people under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their GP or clinician not to attend. We would need written confirmation from a doctor in such cases.

Reducing the risk of transmission in school

We will continue to promote good hygiene with the children in school. We will also continue to carry out the additional cleaning that has taken place throughout the pandemic.

We will adhere to the Local Authority's outbreak management plans.

Mixing and 'bubbles'

From Step 4, it is no longer recommended that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles') or to keep groups apart as much as possible. This means that bubbles will not need to be used from the autumn term. Children will be able to eat lunch in the hall and have a full choice of meals.

Our bubbles will remain in place until the end of this term.

If there is an outbreak in our school, or we become part of an enhanced response area, we might be advised that it is necessary to reintroduce bubbles or to keep groups apart for a temporary period to reduce mixing between groups.

Tracing and self-isolation

From Step 4, schools will no longer be expected to trace close contacts. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. As parents or carers, you may be contacted to help with identifying close contacts.

From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children (parents) will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Positive lateral flow test

Anyone with a positive test result will need to:

- Self-isolate and follow *the stay at home guidance*
- Book a PCR test to confirm the result

Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.

What to do if you suspect your child has the virus or has had a positive test

Do not send your child to school if:

- they are showing one or more symptom
- they have had a positive test result
- there are other reasons requiring them to stay at home, for example, they are required to quarantine

Holidays and travel abroad

Holidays will continue to be unauthorised during term time. Keep in mind that you and your children may need to self-isolate when you return from a trip overseas. Any self-isolation should also fall within the school or college holidays.

Assessments

Statutory assessments will be reinstated next year. These will include:

- Reception Baseline
- Year 1 Phonics Screen
- Year 2 SATs
- Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
- Year 6 SATs

E. Cook

E. Cook,

Headteacher.