

# Current School COVID Safety Measures - October 2021

Dear Parents,

Please find a summary of the current guidance, and COVID safety rules, that we are operating under for the first part of the 2021-22 Academic Year. Please read these carefully and abide by those that relate to you. Thank you.

MAIN CHANGE:

- **We will no longer have Bubble Groups:** THE DfE HAVE REMOVED THE REQUIREMENT FOR WHOLE BUBBLE GROUPS TO ISOLATE SHOULD A PARENT OR A CHILD HAVE COVID.

## **SO – HOW WILL IT WORK NOW IF SOMEONE GETS COVID?**

- **IF A CHILD IS ILL AT SCHOOL:**

This will work in much the same way as it always has over the pandemic. If a child has a high temperature (over 37.8 degrees C), a new persistent cough or loss of smell or taste then school will ring parents – to come and collect their child. Parents should arrange a PCR test for their child. Children may return to school after a negative result, should they feel well enough.

- **IF A CHILD / STAFF MEMBER HAS A POSITIVE RESULT AFTER FEELING ILL AT SCHOOL:**

- If a child / staff member is ill at school, and a PCR Test subsequently says they have COVID, there are no more bubble groups so mass isolation is not required.
- Instead parents will get advised by NHS Test and Trace as to whom is deemed a 'Close Contact'. **Please inform the school office immediately should your child be identified as a Close Contact.**
- 'Close Contacts' are asked to take a PCR Test. See next section for the process for 'Close Contacts'.
- DfE guidance of 19<sup>th</sup> July took away the role of schools in identifying close contacts of positive cases and placed that role entirely with NHS Test and Trace.

- **ACTION TO TAKE IF A CHILD IS DEEMED A 'CLOSE CONTACT':**

If a pupil is deemed a 'Close Contact' by Public Health / Test & Trace, whether it is through contact with a positive person at school or at home, Govt. advise parents to take their child for a PCR\* test.  
*\*This first test must be a PCR Test. Lateral Flow are not sensitive/reliable enough for the initial test.*

- The Government say that, if a child/staff member has no symptoms, they do not need to isolate until the PCR Result comes back positive. Then, once positive, they should isolate in the normal way (10 days).
- It seems sensible to be cautious and have your child await a negative PCR result in isolation before they return to school, rather take the chance of sparking a full outbreak of COVID. Thank you for considering this suggestion, as it not required by the current guidance. In order that the school remains open, staff in the same situation may not be able to do this. However, they have been double vaccinated so there is that measure of protection for adults to prevent outbreak.
- School will put work on Seesaw for any child who is isolating, including any child awaiting a PCR test or result.
- Once a negative PCR result is received, the Government say the child must return to school unless the Headteacher judges they should stay at home to protect other pupils and staff from infection.

- In line with a 'BE KIND' philosophy we suggest that, if a child is a close contact but their PCR is negative, the child takes a Lateral Flow Test every day before school for 10 days after the initial 'Close Contact' incident. Staff will follow the same procedure.
- The Government do not require you to follow this daily LF testing procedure. However, senior staff and governors do feel it is a sensible approach towards keeping ourselves safe and suggest that you do follow this advice.
- Lateral Flow Tests are free and can be ordered on: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>. Don't be put off by it saying 11 years and over. That is for ordering. Anyone in a household can use one.
- If you anticipate a delay getting hold of a Lateral Flow Test kit, please ring the school office and we will arrange getting you a pack. Thank you.

**\*N.B. This is in line with the DfE Guidance of 27<sup>th</sup> September and may be subject to change. Parents will be notified of any changes.**

#### **SUMMARY OF OTHER MEASURES:**

- ✓ **Hot meals** – Key Stage 1 & 2 both eat in the hall and lunch in classrooms will stop. There are two separate sittings, as before COVID, with Key Stage 2 going in to the hall after Key Stage 1 & Reception come out.
- ✓ We have **REMOVED** staggered playtimes and lunchtimes so that children from both Key Stages can mix at school.
- ✓ **Worship** – We have resumed worshipping together as a whole school.
- ✓ **Temperature checks are made on pupils, inside, as they arrive in the morning.**
  - There are two staff on duty. One goes round the KS1 1 classes. The second staff member goes round checking temperatures in KS2. Any child with a high temperature is observed in the medical room / outside and their parents will be contacted. **Staff take their own temperatures on arrival.**
- ✓ **Parents are requested to ensure pupils have additional, warm clothing.**
  - We follow DfE guidance about increased ventilation and, although the heating may be on full, high level windows will be open somewhat and classrooms may be colder than normal. Pupils are allowed to wear extra fleeces over their school uniform even if they are not school ones. Classroom temperatures will not drop below the minimum 16 °C limit.

#### **What equipment is my child allowed to bring to school?**

We ask you to ensure that, apart from the exceptions listed below, your child brings nothing from home to school or vice versa. This is to minimise the COVID transition risk.

EXCEPTIONS: Lunchbox and water bottle, a coat, a reading book, homework books. Plus, a bag to carry all this in.

P.E. KITS – Can be left in school now. However, please ask your child to bring it home regularly for a wash.

## **What is the system for school 'Drop-off' and 'Pick-up'?**

**There are staggered drop-off and collection times:**

**- MORNINGS:**

Gates open at 8:35am for – Reception Year, Year 1 & 2 arrival.

8:45am – Whistle goes for Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 to line up.

8:55am – All pupils should have arrived by this time.

9:00am – Pupils entering the classroom after this time will be marked late.

**- END OF DAY:**

3:05pm – Gates open to collect Reception, Year 1 & 2.

3:15pm – Collect Year 3, 4, 5 & 6

**N.B.**

**Facemasks on the playground – these are now optional; however, please feel free to continue to wear one should you be most comfortable with one.**

**Social distancing on the playground – this is now optional but please respect the personal space of other people. Some people may be less enthusiastic about being within 2m of people they don't usually meet. Again, please follow the 'BE KIND' philosophy.**

**Essential adults inside the school building only. This rule remains. Blue slips for messages to staff / yellow slips to notify us of a change of a child's usual pick-up will go out on a little table. Please ask the staff on duty if these are not out / or if you require a form from the office. For your own safety, and that of others, please avoid entering the school building unless it is essential and you have checked with a senior staff member.**