



31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I trust you have all had a rest over the summer break and are looking forward to returning to school next week,

Now that the COVID rules have changed, I wanted to update you regarding the latest guidance and expectations around Coronavirus. At the moment, we are all getting used to the new requirements, so please bear with us if we have 'new' situations where we need to seek advice before we can answer your questions.

The most significant change for us is that children and fully vaccinated adults no longer need to isolate if they have had contact with a positive case of Coronavirus, unless they are directed to do so by NHS Track and Trace, or they subsequently develop symptoms or test positive.

In general, the advice is to continue to be vigilant to the main symptoms of Coronavirus (**a new, continuous cough, a temperature or a loss or change to their sense of taste or smell**), but we also ask you to remain cautious about the symptoms regarded as more specific to the Delta variant, specifically **a headache, sickness and/or diarrhoea and a sore throat**. **This is particularly true if members of our school community have had contact with a positive case.** Should the number of positive cases in school increase quickly, PHE may declare that we have an outbreak, which may result in a return to bubbles at best, or a partial or full school closure at worst. Clearly, we do not want this to happen, so we are asking parents and staff to be **particularly attentive to potential symptoms** if children have had contact with a positive case.

As previously, if a child develops symptoms whilst at school, we will ask you to come and collect them as soon as possible – they will be kept in an isolation space near the office until they are collected. We ask that you then arrange for your child to have a PCR Coronavirus test (one which is sent to a lab for testing) **as soon as possible**.

### FAQs for families:

#### **Q: What do I do if my child becomes symptomatic?**

**A: Please book and conduct a test ASAP.** The shortest possible gap between symptoms beginning and getting a test is essential. The rest of the household do not need to isolate unless they are directed to do so by NHS Track and Trace.

#### **Q: A member of our household has tested positive – can my child attend school?**

Yes, though you are strongly advised to book a PCR test for all members of the household and should carefully monitor your child for symptoms. Where parents or carers are isolating, please let us know if friends or family are supporting with pick up and drop off so that we know who is collecting the children. If this will not be possible, we can facilitate a 'car park drop off', but please note that the person who has tested positive must not leave their car – a member of school staff will collect the child from the car park or they can make their way in, if older.



**Q: We were contacted by NHS Track and Trace following contact with a positive case – what do we do next?**

Book a PCR test, but your child can continue to attend school whilst they are waiting for the results (unless they develop symptoms or are told to isolate by Track and Trace).

**Q: We booked a test for our child and the result was positive, what do we need to do next?**

In this case, your child will need to isolate; other household members do not need to isolate unless they are told to do so by NHS Track and Trace (adults who are not fully vaccinated **will** need to isolate for 10 days). This means that siblings can continue to attend school, but please continue to carefully monitor any children coming to school for symptoms. Please inform us of a positive test result as soon as possible.

If...	Then...
My child develops symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Your child must isolate and a PCR test should be booked as soon as possible.</li></ul>
A member of the household tests positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Unaffected children can come to school, but book a PCR and remain vigilant for potential symptoms.</li></ul>
My child comes into contact with a positive case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Children can come to school unless they are advised to isolate by Track and Trace. Remain vigilant for potential symptoms.</li></ul>
My child tests positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Your child must isolate; other household members do not need to isolate unless they are advised to isolate by Track and Trace – siblings can continue to attend school. Remain vigilant for potential symptoms.</li></ul>

We will continue with our staggered start and finish to the days via the same gates as last year, staff have expressed that it has been good to have the opportunity to receive and handover children and so we would like to continue this for the time being. It also gives some continuity for the children as it is what they are used to. Staff will be restarting clubs/ after school meetings, so if you are delayed the children will go to the library area for collection. (Details of times have been sent out by email and also Ourschoolsapp)

Some children have never been to whole school collective worship and so whilst we are all eager to get back to being 'together', we are going to take a gentle approach to this. This half term we are introducing key stage worship, next half term, whole school worship and then after Christmas, all being well, Family Celebration Worship. We cannot wait to welcome you all back into school.

Please do get in touch with school staff if you have any questions or queries and we will do our very best to help.

Thank you again for your continued support and understanding as we get to grips with another new set of expectations.

*Best wishes*

Karen Miles  
Headteacher

