



Dear Parents/ Carers,

First of all, a huge welcome back to school. It has been wonderful to see all the children's smiles and hear their laughter in the corridors and classes today.

You may be aware that the government has made some detailed changes in relation to the guidance on COVID 19 for schools that became effective on the 16th August. As a result, children will no longer be in bubbles, however we will continue to operate in adjusted manner to ensure a gradual return to "normal".

In addition, **if a child tests positive, only that child is sent home to isolate.** NHS Test and Trace will now take a lead role in the following:

- providing free testing for anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 to find out if they have the virus
- getting in touch with anyone who has had a positive test result to collect information about close contacts
- alerting those contacts, advise them to take a PCR test and instruct them to self-isolate, and from 16 August will also check which contacts are exempt from self-isolation

From 16 August, you will not need to self-isolate if you are notified you have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and any of the following apply:

- you are fully vaccinated
- you are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Those contacts who are exempt from self-isolation from 16 August will still be advised to take a PCR test, however, will not be required to self-isolate while they wait for the result. They will also be advised to consider the following precautions until 10 days after their most recent contact with the positive case:



- limiting close contact with people outside their household, especially in enclosed spaces
- wearing a face covering in enclosed spaces and where they are unable to maintain social distancing
- limiting contact with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable
- taking part in regular lateral flow testing

Where children display symptoms in school, they will still be asked to go home and get a PCR test, however siblings will no longer need to go at this time.

We are hopeful that we will begin to see a return to normality in the coming weeks and months and we look forward to welcoming parents into school for our regular school events. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With Kind Regards,



Mrs. J. Cromey

