

Headteacher's Newsletter

2/9/21

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year. It was so lovely to see our pupils and their families this morning.

The purpose of this letter is to explain what we will be doing in school following updated guidance from the government regarding procedures around Covid.

Government Guidance	School Action
Schools must have an updated risk assessment and Outbreak Management Plan.	These will be available on the website and sent out to parents next week.
It is no longer necessary to keep in strict bubbles.	Children will generally be staying their own classes. Playtimes and lunchtimes will continue as before with separate times and classes being separate. This fits with our school timetable and management of the school day. Assemblies will be in classes for the moment
Individuals are not required to isolate if they live in the same house as a positive case, or are a close contact, if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are fully vaccinated • Under 18 years and 6 months • They can't be vaccinated for medical reasons 	This means that if there is a positive case within a house then children can still attend school if they do not have symptoms. If parents are not able to bring their child to school because they themselves are positive, then please let school know and we will be able to arrange remote learning.
Face coverings are no longer advised but may be introduced if there is a significant number of cases	There is no longer a requirement for parents to wear masks on the school playground – this is up to individuals. Staff are being given the option to wear a mask or not – again it is up to the individual.
Good hygiene for everyone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with existing routines of hand washing or sanitising • Follow Catch it, Bin it, Kill it • PPE to be used when dealing with symptomatic people 	We will be continuing with regular handwashing throughout the day and use of hand sanitiser – including when children arrive in the morning.
Maintain cleaning regimes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning as now – 2x per day with a focus on frequently touched surfaces 	Our cleaning routines will continue as before, including a deep clean on Friday afternoons.
Ventilation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas need to be well ventilated. Poorly ventilated spaces must be identified in the risk assessment and steps taken to improve them. • Internal doors to be open where appropriate and also external doors. Windows should be open. 	Doors and windows will be open where possible as before.

<p>Follow advice on testing, isolation and case management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and pupils must not come to school if they have symptoms, a positive test or have been told to isolate. • Staff and pupils who display symptoms (the original list) in school must be sent home and take a PCR test. • Pupils awaiting collection must follow the existing procedures in school. 	<p>Pupils with symptoms must be kept at home and a PCR test taken.</p> <p>If your child has any of the following symptoms they must stay at home and take a PCR test:</p> <p>New and continuous cough High temperature Change in, or loss of, taste or smell</p>
<p>Remote Education will continue, and we need to have provision in place for this.</p>	<p>Our remote learning offer will continue. Laptops are available for children who do not have a laptop at home.</p>

Drop off in the mornings will be between 8.45 and 9 am in order to minimise congestion on the playground and children may be collected from 3pm – 3.15. Please remember that Friday pick up is 1.15 pm.

Nursery will follow their usual times.

Class newsletters will be coming out next week with more information about learning and classroom routines.

As you can see, we are taking a cautious approach to changing procedures. We will review our procedures at half term or if the government releases new guidance, and let you know of any changes that we make.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards
Mrs H Edge