

29th April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

COVID-19 Update

I hope you enjoyed the Easter break. As we start the new term, I want to update you following changes to the COVID-19 restrictions. As previously mentioned, on Tuesday 29th March, the Secretary of State for Health [set out](#) the next steps of the Government's Living with Covid strategy. On Friday 1st April the UK Health Security Agency also released updated guidance for [schools](#) and updated guidance for the [general public](#).

At Ark Victoria Academy, we have considered this new advice and how we transition into this new phase. We realise that this has been an incredibly challenging time for everyone. We are looking forward to building back many of the things we had to postpone while continuing with some of the lessons learned during this time. We also want to carry on developing ways to support students' mental health and wellbeing, which has been impacted by the last couple of years. We remain ever cautious that we may have to increase safety measures at different future points and will consider this in our planning. While COVID-19 is still impacting our lives, we want to ensure minimal disruption to children's education.

There is no longer any legal requirement for schools to have a specific COVID-19 risk assessment in England, so we will not be further reviewing our COVID-19 risk assessments. However, we have updated our Infection Control Policy, which sets out how we seek to minimise the transmission of any infections in our school and how we will respond to any outbreaks. We will continue to maintain high cleaning standards at school and keep our buildings well-ventilated. Face coverings are no longer required in schools, but students may continue to wear one if they wish. Schools are no longer supplying lateral flow or PCR tests.

Respiratory infections - including COVID-19 - are common in children and young people, particularly during winter. These illnesses will not be serious for most children, but they can spread quickly between people. Sneezing, coughing, singing, and talking may spread respiratory droplets from an infected person to someone nearby. Therefore, it is important that we all continue to wash our hands regularly, and to sneeze or cough into a tissue (or our elbow when we don't have a tissue to hand).

When should my child stay at home?

- If your child has a high temperature, they should stay at home. They can come back to school when they no longer have a high temperature, and they feel well enough to do so.
- If your child has a positive COVID-19 test result, they should stay at home for three days after the day they took the test. If they feel well and do not have a high temperature, passing the infection on to others is much lower after three days and so at this point, they should return to school.
- If someone else in your household tests positive, your child should continue to come to school as usual.
- If your child has mild symptoms of a respiratory infection such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, but is otherwise well, they should come to school as normal.

We will continue to ensure our school remains as safe as possible. We can all do simple things in our daily lives to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory infections and protect those at the highest risk.

If you would like to discuss any of the changes, please do not hesitate to contact school.

Thank you for your ongoing understanding and support throughout the past few years.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Ela McSorley
Principal All-Through