

25 September 2019

Dear parents/carers,

On Monday (21st February), the Government set out its ongoing response to enable the country to manage COVID-19 as part of the [Living with COVID-19](#) plan. Several changes impact on schools, which, although I am sure you will have read about, I wanted to share with you directly.

### **From 21<sup>st</sup> February**

Staff and students in secondary schools are no longer encouraged to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing.

We will no longer issue test kits, but families may use existing kits they have or order these for free from the Government website or your local pharmacy until 1 April. You can continue to [order](#) tests online or [collect](#) them from your local pharmacy.

We will stop asking visitors to take a lateral flow test before coming onsite.

### **Staying safe**

We can all reduce the risk of catching and passing on COVID-19 by:

- Getting vaccinated
- Letting fresh air in if meeting indoors, or meet outside
- Considering wearing a face covering in crowded, enclosed spaces.
- Taking a PCR test if you have COVID-19 symptoms, and staying at home
- Avoiding contact with other people if you test positive; and
- Washing your hands and following advice to 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it'.

The Government has now updated its specific guidance on COVID-19 for schools, and I wanted to share with you what we are continuing to do to keep your children safe.

We are currently reviewing our COVID-19 risk assessment and we will continue to:

- encourage everyone to maintain good hand hygiene by regularly washing their hands or using hand sanitiser;
- encourage everyone to maintain good respiratory hygiene by using tissues to catch coughs and sneezes;
- keep our school buildings well ventilated; and
- maintain high levels of cleaning.

The legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test has ended. However, there is no change in the guidance of what you should do. Please do **not** send your child to school if they have symptoms of COVID-19 (a new and continuous cough, a high temperature, or a loss of or change to their sense of taste or smell) or have tested positive. If your child displays one of these symptoms, they should stay at home and take a PCR test.

Unless the test is negative, your child should stay at home for 10 full days following the day they tested positive or began displaying symptoms. However, it is safe for your child to return to school if they no longer have a fever, and if they take a rapid lateral flow test on days 5 and 6 and both are negative. (If one or both tests is positive, they should keep taking one test a day, and can return to school when they have received two negative tests, one day after the other).

If someone else in your household has COVID-19 but your child has no symptoms and has not tested positive, then it is safe for them to come to school, and they should do so and should not stay at home.

If your child has to stay at home due to COVID-19 but is well enough to learn, we will continue to provide remote education with live or recorded teaching and time for them to independently complete tasks or assignments.

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective and give you and your children the best protection against COVID-19. Everyone aged 12 and over can get the vaccine, and we encourage you to [look into this](#) if you haven't yet done so.

I would like to reassure you that we will continue to monitor the number of cases of COVID-19 at school, and if the numbers of cases rise rapidly, we will seek additional public health advice and respond rapidly to implement additional control measures if these are required to reduce transmission of COVID-19 within the school.

I hope the above is clear, but if you do have any questions do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Ela McSorley  
**Principal All-Through**