

23 July 2021

Covid-19 precautions over the summer and next term

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the Summer term, I am write to you about our Covid-19 arrangements for over the summer and as we think ahead to the start of the autumn term in September.

I would firstly like to thank you all for your support this year. Our children have shown such great maturity in following the Covid-19 precautions we have had in place and really have adapted well to the changes that we've put in place during the pandemic.

As you may know, the Government has published new guidance for schools around Covid-19 precautions to come into effect shortly. You [can read the guidance here](#) or by searching 'Schools COVID-19 operational guidance Step 4.'

Over the summer break we will be making changes as per the new guidance.

In September, what precautions will be the same?

Hand Hygiene

Pupils and staff will continue to wash their hands thoroughly and often.

'Catch it, bin it, kill it'

We will continue to follow good hygiene around sneezing, using and then disposing tissues safely.

Cleaning

We will continue to have a thorough cleaning schedule with regular cleaning equipment and a focus on frequently touched areas.

Ventilation

We will continue to ensure that the school is well ventilated.

COVID-19 symptoms and positive tests

Pupils and staff must not come to school if they have symptoms of Covid, have had a positive test, or are required to quarantine. If a pupil shows symptoms at school, parents will need to collect them promptly and book a PCR test.

In the event of someone from your household showing a symptom of the virus you should follow the [Public Health England stay at home guidance](#) for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infections.

Principal – Clare Robinson

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Risk assessments

The Senior Leadership Team at school will continue to meet weekly to assess the risk at school. If necessary, and in consultation with Public Health England, we will make changes to our arrangements to increase the precautions we have in place.

Asymptomatic testing

There is no need for primary age pupils (those in Year 6 and below) to test over the summer period, or in September. Those staff who consent will continue to take two LFD tests each week at home in the new term until the end of September, when the government will review this.

In September, what precautions are changing?

Bubbles

The government's new advice explains that they are no longer recommending that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups (or bubbles). This means that assemblies will be able to resume, lunch service can return to something like normal, and that the pupils will be able to use all the subject-specific classrooms.

We will spend some time over the summer considering what will work best around pupils moving around the academy. It is a requirement of the new guidance that we can quickly move back to bubbles should positive cases rise within the academy or in our local community.

Tracing close contacts and isolation

Since the 19th July schools have not been responsible for contact tracing, although we have continued this procedure up until the end of term on Friday 23rd July. Instead, NHS Test and Trace will now contact the family of the pupil with a confirmed case to identify who they have been in close contact with. This will no longer be decided by school. The NHS might contact the academy to help them with tracking and tracing, but we will no longer be the key facilitator of this. To this end, from Friday afternoon, if your child shows a symptom, or returns a positive LFD test, and goes on to have a positive PCR result, there is no need to contact the school.

In addition, from September children under the age of 18 will not be required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a confirmed case. Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and advised to take a PCR Test.

Free school meals across the summer break

Free school meals will be provided across the summer break, which are being sent out as vouchers to our families who are in receipt of free school meals. We will be in touch separately with those families that are eligible.

As ever this is a lot of information, but we wanted to provide you with a full update. We are of course pleased that some of the COVID-19 precautions are reducing, however we will only open safely if everyone continues to take the pandemic seriously.

Children must only come to school if they are well, and everyone is responsible for following all precautions that remain in place. As is clear in the guidance, we as a school will be prepared to reintroduce further COVID-19 precautions should it be necessary, and we are advised to by Public Health England.

Yours,

Clare Robinson

Principal
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