

4th April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to update you on the implications for schools of the changes in the COVID-19 guidance and rules in place nationally from April 1st onwards. In summary, free PCR and LFT tests will no longer be available and the isolation period for people who have tested positive is now 5 days for adults and 3 days for children. In addition, people with symptoms of a respiratory infection (including COVID-19) and a high temperature or who feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature.

The following advice now applies for parents regarding your child's attendance at school.

When to come to school

- Children with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend school.
- Children who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend as normal.

When to stay at home

- Children who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough.
- If your child has a positive COVID-19 test result they should stay at home and, where possible, avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test. They can return to school after 3 days if they feel well and do not have a high temperature.

We can insist that students who have a confirmed or suspected case of an infectious illness and have a temperature stay at home as, in these circumstances, we are advised to do so to protect other children and staff from possible infection.

Remote learning for students who are absent with either a positive COVID-19 test or because they are unwell with respiratory illness symptoms will no longer be provided as, with the reduction in the



**OLDFIELD
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isolation period for children, the requirement for schools to provide remote learning is no longer in place. An absence for a child who has a positive test result will continue to be recorded as a COVID related absence.

We are allowing students and staff to wear face coverings in school if they wish to do so. We would ask that, if your child has mild symptoms and is in school, you consider asking them to wear a face covering. We will be able to provide a face covering for them from Reception.

We will continue to make hand sanitisers available throughout the school and ventilate rooms as part of our ongoing mitigation measures. I have attached update guidance from BANES on how to mitigate against risk at home if someone in your household has, or is suspected to have, COVID-19.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Mackay
Headteacher