

Our Ref: TYL/ jc

September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

### Latest Update – September 2021

Further to last week's letter on rising cases of Covid 19 in school, please find below an update on the next steps we are taking to help reduce the spread of the virus.

Following liaison with the Local Outbreak Team, we are introducing some further precautionary measures as of Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, which include:

- The use of face masks in all indoor communal areas at break and lunchtimes and between lessons, except when eating and drinking in the Canteen or Diner. This does not apply to students who are exempt from wearing a mask. Students should bring a mask with them, though we do have some available that can be collected from Reception should they forget or break one. This does not include students who are exempt from wearing a mask.
- Moving assemblies to Teams.
- Adapting school events to ensure they are as safe as they can be.
- Temporary suspension of the canteen service at break in New Hall.

Students and all households should continue to test twice weekly at home. If you receive a positive result from a lateral flow test, you should seek a PCR as soon as possible and then follow the isolation guidance as below.

What to do if NHS Track and Trace contact you:

1. If your child is identified as a close contact by NHS Test and Trace, your child should continue attending school and you should arrange for them to have a PCR COVID-19 test. Only if this test is positive or your child is displaying one of the three COVID-19 symptoms do they need to refrain from school and self-isolate. In line with the latest government guidelines that were released in August 2021, identified close contacts who are under 18 years of age, do not need to self-isolate.
2. If your child does test positive for Covid-19 they should stay at home for the 10-day isolation period and the school will provide remote education from the second day, so that they can continue their learning if they are well enough to do so. Remote education will not be extended to children who are absent for other reasons.

We know that you may find this concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation with the support of the Local Authority. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most young people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

#### What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least 10 days from the day after their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms should seek a test and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

Household members no longer need to isolate if they are under 18 years of age or are double vaccinated.

Further information is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The 10-day period starts from the day after the first person in the house became ill.

#### Symptoms:

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>

or by phoning 111.

#### How to stop COVID-19 spreading:

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19.

#### Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Taylor', written in a cursive style.

Mr M Taylor  
Headteacher