

20th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing in respect of the announcement, made by the Prime Minister, in Parliament yesterday. As you will be aware, the Prime Minister announced that all Plan B, and the associated restrictions, will be removed in England, with a full return to Plan A by Thursday 27 January.

It is important, therefore, to update you and your child about what this means in education and childcare settings:

While the government announcements was that from **Thursday 20 January** - face coverings are no longer recommended in classrooms and teaching spaces for staff, and pupils and students in year 7 and above. However, given the notification of this change, late yesterday, we have decided to implement this change, instead, from **Friday 21st January** giving us adequate time to communicate with yourselves, our young people and our staff. As previously advised we may have some colleagues, where there are particular vulnerabilities, who will ask young people to continue wearing face coverings in the classroom. We will ask young people to continue to respect this as they did so well previously.

The Prime Minister also announced that from next Thursday, Thursday 27th January, face coverings will no longer be recommended in communal areas for staff, and pupils and students in year 7 and above.

As you would expect, given the uncertain path of this pandemic, and our shared desire to see an end to disruption of our young people's education, we reserve the right to re-instigate the use of face coverings should we see a rise in cases, the emergence of a new variant, or a change to guidance. Local Directors of Public Health may also instruct school's to do so should the circumstances demand such measures. You will, of course, be the first to know if any such decision is taken.

The Prime Minister explained that these decisions come:

In response to national infection data showing the prevalence of COVID-19 to be on a downward trajectory. (Whilst there are some groups where cases are likely to continue rising)
Because it is likely that the Omicron wave has now peaked nationally.
While, there remains significant pressure on the NHS but hospital admissions have stabilised, and the number of patients in Intensive Care Units (ICU) remain low and are falling.

As a result, the Government believe that it is right that they remove the most stringent restrictions around wearing face coverings from education.

This said, the virus is still with us, and we will continue with the measures we have place to keep the school CoVid secure. A reminder that you can continue to support our efforts to keep the school community safe by following the published guidance and by ensuring that your child(ren) routinely conduct 2 lateral flow

tests per week and that these are recorded on the NHS website.

A reminder that you can get LFTs from school, from your local pharmacy or by going here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

In addition, we will continue with our COVID arrangements, here at school, which include:

1. Staggered starts and ends to the school day
2. Staggered breaks and lunch-times
3. Hand Hygiene (sanitiser available on entry, exit, around the school build and in every classroom and office).
4. Visitors to the school to confirm negative LFT on arrival

The most important measure, of course, is that no child or adult should attend school if they are exhibiting symptoms of CoVid-19. Instead, they should be kept at home and access a COVID19 Lateral Flow Test or PCR~~test~~

A reminder that the established symptoms of CoVid-19 are:

1. A new persistent cough
2. A fever
3. A loss of sense of taste or smell

I also want to share with the current guidance on self-isolation in which there have been some significant changes over recent days. The most up to date guidance is as follows:

When to self-isolate:

Self-isolate straight away and get a PCR test (a test that is sent to the lab) on GOV.UK as soon as possible if you have any of these 3 symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild:
• a high temperature
• a new, continuous cough
• a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
You should also self-isolate straight away if:
• you've tested positive for COVID-19 – this means you have the virus
• someone you live with has symptoms or tested positive (unless you are not required to self-isolate – check below if this applies to you)
• you've been told to self-isolate following contact with someone who tested positive – find out what to do if you're told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app

When to stop self-isolating:

You can stop self-isolating after 5 days if you do a rapid lateral flow test on days 5 and 6 of your self-isolation period and:
both tests are negative
you did both tests at least 24 hours apart
you do not have a high temperature

If you do a rapid lateral flow test on day 6 and test positive, wait 24 hours before you do the next test.
If you stop self-isolating on or after day 6, it's important that you take steps to reduce the chance of passing COVID-19 to others. This means you should:
work from home if you can
wear a face covering in shops, on public transport and when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors, in crowded places or where there is not much fresh air
limit contact with people at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19
follow advice on how to avoid catching and spreading COVID-19
You can stop self-isolating after the 10 days if either:
you do not have any symptoms
you just have a cough or changes to your sense of smell or taste – these can last for weeks after the infection has gone

When you do not need to self-isolate

If you live with or have been in contact with someone with COVID-19, you will not need to self-isolate if any of the following apply:

you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine
you're under 18 years and 6 months old
you're taking part or have taken part in an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
Even if you do not have symptoms, you're strongly advised to:
do daily rapid lateral flow tests (1 a day for 7 days), if you're fully vaccinated, to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 - find out more about daily testing on GOV.UK
follow advice on how to avoid catching and spreading COVID-19
consider limiting contact with people who are at higher risk from COVID-19

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,



Mr. D Lye

Headteachers