

1 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we welcome all pupils back for the autumn term I would like to share with you the updated COVID guidelines for Schools.

We recognise how difficult the last few years have been for everyone and are working extremely hard in school to ensure we keep everyone as safe as possible whilst following all statutory guidance. Please read through the information in this letter and keep this letter and keep it to hand to support any inquiries.

You will know that during recent weeks most COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted across the country and the vaccination programme has been rolled out. In schools this means that 'bubbles', social distancing and face coverings are no longer a requirement. (Face coverings are still a requirement on London transport.)

We will of course still be taking actions to keep children and adults safe in school - making sure that everyone washes their hands regularly, enhanced cleaning and good ventilation, for example. There are some arrangements which will still be in place to add extra protection as these have worked well and do not disrupt the school day:

- Lateral flow tests made available to staff for twice weekly testing
- Online trainings and briefings
- Annual review meetings to remain online/via phone
- Parent visits kept to a minimum
- Pupil drop off and collection will remain outside reception

Anyone aged 18 or under will no longer need to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 but will need to get a PCR test. From the 19<sup>th</sup> July, the process of contact tracing COVID-19 cases in schools moved to NHS Test and Trace. This means we will not be informing you directly about cases in the school or if you are a close contact. You will be contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace.

Children and young people are at very low risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19. The majority of school staff and teachers have already had the vaccination.

The virus remains a risk to many people in Lewisham. If your child has COVID-19 symptoms (a high temperature; a new, continuous cough or loss/change to smell or taste), you must keep them off school and let us know. It is really important that they stay at home (self-isolate) and get a test. If the test is positive, they must stay at home for the full ten days. Even if they're feeling better, they

will be at risk of spreading the virus to the more vulnerable in our community. Please let us know if your child tests positive for COVID-19.

You/your child must still self-isolate if:

- you have tested positive for COVID-19 (even if you've been vaccinated)
- you have symptoms of COVID-19, while you wait for the results of a PCR test
- or you are told by NHS Test and Trace that you've been in contact with a person with COVID-19 and you're not fully vaccinated (18 years or over).

Thank you to everyone for your continued support and understanding with these matters. If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact school on the numbers above.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marie Neave". The script is cursive and fluid.

Marie Neave  
Executive Headteacher