

3 September 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Arrangements for September 2021

On Tuesday 6th July 2021, the Government announced that as part of Step 4 of the roadmap, from September 2021 it is proposing to reduce a number of Covid-19 restrictions, which have been in place in schools for the last 18 months. This decision has been made by the Government to reduce the disruption to children's education – particularly as the clinical risks to children from COVID-19 are low and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for 2 doses by September. The lifting of COVID-19 restrictions in school is in line with the proposed general removal of restrictions in England.

This move is welcomed by REACH2 and our school as the priority is to deliver face-to-face, high quality education for your children. However, we also recognise that it is important that the school continues to play its part in controlling the spread of the virus through protective measures. On the next page, you will find details of the COVID-19 measures which are being removed in September 2021 in schools and those which remain in place following the Department for Education published guidance.

COVID-19 Symptoms

Please note it is imperative that if your child has, or is showing symptoms of COVID-19;

- High temperature
- New, continuous cough
- Loss of, or change to, sense of smell or taste

they must not attend school and should remain at home in line with Stay at Home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection – Gov.uk. They should take a PCR test within 2 days and only return to school if the test result is negative. Parents should follow the NHS Test and Trace process. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, your child should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of a positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and your child can return to school, as long as they don't have COVID-19 symptoms.

Children who are identified as a close contact of someone who tests positive for COVID.

Under the current arrangements, if a child (under 18 years, 6 months) or those members of staff who are fully vaccinated are identified as a close contact of someone who tests positive for COVID they are **not** required to self-isolate. Instead, they will be advised to take a PCR test. They will not be required to isolate whilst they await the results of the PCR test.

Please note that self-isolation will continue for those who have tested positive for COVID or who display symptoms.

Yours faithfully,

Raheel Akhtar

Headteacher

Protection measures being removed in September 2021

10 days isolation for close contacts of a confirmed case and adults fully vaccinated.

Wearing face coverings in school

Assemblies will resume

Protection measures in place in September 2021

School will continue to follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases

Key Stage bubbles, social distancing wherever possible and some zoned areas

Staggered breaks/lunches/end of school times

One-way system in school

Restrictions on school trips, drama, music, sporting activities and clubs

Good personal hygiene – regular hand washing/sanitising.

Good respiratory hygiene – ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’

Ventilation of occupied rooms/assemblies

Regular cleaning regime

Positive cases or anyone with symptoms (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss/change to smell or taste) must not come to school and must self-isolate. Anyone in school with symptoms, will be sent home. A PCR test must be taken within 2 days. If the PCR test results in negative, the child/staff member can return to school. If the PCR test result is positive they MUST self-isolate and follow NHS Test and Trace advice.

Close contacts will be identified by NHS Test and Trace.

School Contingency Plan for any outbreak.

Lateral flow home testing by all staff till the end of September.

Use of staff personal protective equipment (PPE) in school for anyone with symptoms.

Remote Education to be provided to all children self-isolating having tested positive.

Continued focus on children’s well-being.

Continued online parents’ evening.

Isolation room for any child/adult with COVID-19 symptoms.

Stepping Measures up or down

An outbreak management plan will be in place, outlining how the school will operate if there were a COVID-19 outbreak in the school or local area (Several confirmed cases within a 14-day period).

Leaders will call the dedicated advice service who will escalate the issue to the local health protection team where necessary and they will advise school leaders should there be any additional action required.