



Beckingham Primary School

Head teacher: Mr. P. Phillips BA (Hons)

“Ensuring every child succeeds and THRIVES becoming a life-long learner, prepared for the world of tomorrow”
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4th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carers

Firstly we would like to wish you a ‘Happy New Year’ and hope that you have had an enjoyable Christmas break. As you will be aware from the media coverage, COVID 19 rates remain high with the latest strain of Omicron and as such the Department for Education has released updated guidance for schools over the weekend. This in turn will be used to update the school risk assessment and whole school contingency plan. However, due to everyone’s return today, it is important to highlight some of the key areas below:

- Staff and all visitors to school will continue to wear facemasks in communal areas.
- Adults will be encouraged to participate twice weekly in the LFD testing programme.
- Enhanced cleaning of the building will continue.
- Opportunities for handwashing will be prioritised.
- Ventilation will be maintained throughout the building with attention given to the CO2 monitors.

Changes to self – isolation if tested positive for COVID19

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.

Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

We appreciate that the rules and guidance are frequently changing but we ask for your co-operation. Staff absence in all sectors of business/commerce/health has been challenging in the last few months and as a school we want to have a staff team at school each day - however there may be times when your child’s class may be taught by someone ‘new’ or ‘different’ as we respond to situations that arise.

With hope for 2022 and all that it will bring.

Kind regards

Mr Phillips
Head Teacher

