



28/02/2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Covid-19 Update

As you will be aware, last week the Government announced long-anticipated changes to the guidance and laws around Covid, reflecting the understanding that we now have to live with Covid.

As we still have a duty of care to all members of our community to ensure their safety as best we can, we would ask you to read the updates below, which are in-line with Department for Education and Government advice to schools.

Face masks – although these are no longer required, we are requesting that adults still wear them inside the school building.

Testing - Children of primary age with symptoms of Covid are expected to go for a PCR test up to 1st April of this year, we will continue to hold this as an expectation. For School Staff, the changes mean that they no longer need to routinely test, however, we will continue to provide Staff with test kits so that they can test themselves if they have been in contact with someone with Covid, if they wish to maintain a testing strategy or should they display Covid symptoms.

Isolation - From 24th February, the law changed and it is no longer a legal obligation to isolate. Instead, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) advice should be followed: UKHSA advice states that individuals should isolate for five full days if showing symptoms. They should then have two negative tests before ending isolation after day 5 (testing negative on day 5 and day 6). There is, therefore, no expected change in the advice, just to the law enforcing that advice.

What does that mean for schools?

This places Covid on the same level as the current policy in place for when children have other infectious or potentially infectious illnesses – such as vomiting or diarrhoea. These require children to be clear of symptoms for a fixed period of time before returning to school (for example, for vomiting or diarrhoea this is 48 hours clear) and we will adopt this approach for Covid. This is to ensure the continued safety of other pupils, staff and their families and we will review this approach at the end of the term.

As before, children absent with Covid should take a LFD test on day 5 and day 6 after their symptoms began.

Absences - Please continue to provide us with a copy of the email after reporting test results – this allows us to confirm the reason for absence.

What is not changing? - We will continue to ventilate all spaces used by children and staff in school. Hygiene measures (hand washing/sanitising and cleaning routines) will also remain in place. - We will continue to monitor and report cases as required, and offer advice for families with positive cases. Children will continue to come to school in their PE kit on PE days





## WOODLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL & OAK TREE FOUNDATION UNIT

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I appreciate that the current changes may bring more questions than answers. Some families will be pleased to see the changes, while others will be extremely worried about what it means for them.

Please continue to be considerate towards others and their feelings regarding the latest changes.

We will continue to take a balanced and measured approach that aims to enable children to have all the opportunities we can provide, while keeping them as safe as we can. As always, thank you for your understanding and support. If you have any specific concerns, please do get in touch.

Yours sincerely,  
Mr Kitley  
Headteacher

