



SPRING

11th January 2022

Nurturing each and all. Guiding, Trusting, Inspiring and Celebrating

Dear Families,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and enjoyed the festive break. This term looks set to be another busy one with many activities planned. Please look at the school website, in particular your child's class page, to keep you informed and up to date. Each class is immersing themselves in their new topics. Little Minster are looking out for Jack Frost, Dovecote will be looking at Beyond our Village, Wenrisc will be transported back in time to London and the Fire of London, Charterville are looking closely at Earth Matters and Lovell will be studying rivers; particularly the River Thames.

Attendance

The staff and governors, alongside the Local Authority, believe that all pupils benefit from regular attendance and, therefore, we ask for your support in ensuring that your child arrives punctually and regularly. There is a clear link between pupils' attendance and their achievement at school. We have a duty to involve the County Attendance Team when attendance drops.

If your child is unwell, please ensure that you notify the office before the start of the school day, either by telephone or email. This also applies in the case of dental or medical appointments when advance notice should be given. Where possible, we would ask that appointments are made outside of school hours – thank you.

School Uniform

Please ensure your child has the correct uniform and kit in school. PE kit should come into school on Mondays and not be taken home until Friday. Whilst we are still battling Covid, please encourage your child to wear layers under their uniform as windows are open all day and the classrooms can become chilly.

Google Classroom

We will continue to use Google Classroom as our online learning platform. If your child is absent, due to Covid, and is well enough, then please access learning here. If you have trouble accessing resources or require further support, please do not hesitate to ring the school office for further assistance.

Covid update

Unfortunately, we have started the term with positive cases, both in staff and pupils. Please read the updated guidance below from the Department for Education. We would request that you keep us informed of Covid cases within your household.

At this time, our main priority will be to keep the school open and to ensure learning is not disrupted for children. It is also important to note that, like all other organisations at this challenging time, there are days that we struggle with staff cover, especially if staff are unwell or unable to work because of caring duties for sick family members. This can mean that planned interventions, activities or after school clubs may have to be cancelled at short notice, if we have insufficient staffing due to absence. We will endeavour to inform you to changes as soon as they become apparent and thank you in advance for your understanding.



4 January – Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Update to all education and childcare settings and providers

Clarification on the changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19

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 or childcare setting from day 7.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Further information, including examples of when to end self-isolation if you have had COVID-19 symptoms, is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

Temporary suspension of confirmatory PCR tests in education and childcare settings

Confirmatory PCR testing following a positive result on a lateral flow device (LFD) will be temporarily suspended from today, Tuesday 11 January. This means that for all education and childcare settings, staff and students, who have tested and reported a positive LFD result, will no longer be advised to get a confirmatory PCR test unless they have COVID symptoms.

This change is informed by public health advice. With high COVID-19 rates, the risk of a positive LFD result being false is very small. We therefore don't need to ask people to do a confirmatory PCR unless they:

- Have symptoms (in which case they need to follow the stay at home guidelines, self-isolate and order a PCR test)
- Have been advised to take a PCR test because they are in a clinically vulnerable group

Education and childcare settings are not expected to trace contacts of a positive case, as this will remain the responsibility of NHS Test and Trace. From today, Tuesday 11th January, contact tracing is triggered once a positive LFD test is reported.

Anyone with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate and follow self-isolation guidance.

Thank you for your continuing support and understanding.

Best wishes,