



Ref: - SC/PT

03 January 2022

Dear Parent / Carers

### Guidance for the new term

Happy new year to you all – I hope you have managed to have an enjoyable Christmas with your families. As you will be aware, the government issued updated guidance for education providers on Sunday 2 January 2022. I thought it would be useful to summarise the main points for you, particularly relating to the new isolation and testing guidance:

### How has the self-isolation requirements changed for those who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19?

- Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10-day self-isolation period 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.
- Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation. Further information is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

### What happens if someone is identified as a close contact but is not displaying any COVID-19 symptoms?

- 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](#).

### **Are pupils who live in a household with someone who has tested positive still required to stay at home and take a PCR test within 3-5 days?**

- If you do not have symptoms of COVID-19 and live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, you are not required to self-isolate as the pupils are under the age of 18 years and 6 months.
- If you develop symptoms while you are isolating, you should arrange to have a COVID-19 PCR test. If your test result is positive, follow the advice for people with COVID-19 to stay at home. You must start a new self-isolation period. This begins when your symptoms started, regardless of where you are in your original 10-day isolation period. This means that your total isolation period may be longer than 10 days.

### **Are pupils in primary schools required to wear face coverings?**

- No, this only applies to pupils in secondary schools.

### **Will staff be wearing face coverings?**

- Staff and all adults on site will continue to wear face coverings in public areas, this includes corridors and all public areas of the school. Staff will also continue to wear face coverings at the start and the end of the day, when pupils arrive and depart at the gates.

### **Will the bubble system still be in place for some classes?**

- You will remember that we had to place Hydra class in a bubble and introduce additional restrictions for some classes throughout September 2021. This was due to a number of COVID-19 cases in certain classes.
- We have, and will continue with, our bubble system of FS/KS1 and LKS2/UKS2.
- In-line with our risk assessment and contingency plan, we will react to the on-going situation. If we do have reports of increasing numbers, we may well re-introduce additional measures which may include isolating bubbles even further for some groups of pupils.

### **Will we be introducing any other measures for the start of term?**

- We will continue with the measures we have had in place since September 2021, including regular handwashing and sanitising; ventilation in classrooms and keeping groups apart as far as possible e.g. staggered breaks and lunches for FS/KS1 and KS2 pupils.
- We will continue to use CO2 monitors to help monitor ventilation in classrooms.
- In addition, we will be returning to class assemblies for the next few weeks to avoid the mass gathering of large numbers of pupils. This will be regularly reviewed.
- Though there are no official social distancing requirements anymore, staff will be encouraged to avoid close contact with each other and the pupils as far as is possible, which is obviously extremely challenging in a primary school.



### **How will we support pupils who are absent from school due to COVID-19?**

- We will continue to educate pupils through remote learning and Microsoft Teams.
- This will include using our various on-line programmes as well as an element of interactivity between the teacher and the isolating pupils. Where practical and where numbers of absentees are high in a class, teachers will try and incorporate isolating pupils into their live teaching, even if this is for short introductory periods of lessons.
- Staff will continue to regularly communicate with pupils and parents through Microsoft Teams.

### **What happens if we have a high level of staff absence?**

- Throughout last term, we had some staff absences. However, we managed this through our internal cover system.
- If we have staff who are absent due to COVID-19 and they are able to, classes will be taught remotely by their absent teachers.
- This will continue and the school will remain open for all classes unless we reach extreme circumstances, where this is not physically possible.
- If this does happen, we will liaise with the relevant parents as soon as possible and ensure that remote learning is in place for any children who are required to stay at home.

### **Will our afterschool clubs still be opening week commencing 10 January 2022?**

- Yes, all clubs will open as planned, and letters to sign up will be sent out the week of January 3, 2022.
- All after school clubs will operate in bubbles.

### **Other matters: New catering providers:**

Thank you to everyone who has booked a school meal for the next few weeks – numbers are very encouraging.

Can I please remind everyone that meals must be paid for through the new SIMS Pay360 system – please see previous letters on our website if you require a reminder about the process.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you wish to discuss any of these matters or require any further advice.

Many thanks for your support on this matter

Kind regards



S Cook  
Principal