

25th February 2022

Dear Parents /Carers

As you will be aware, the legal requirement for isolation, if anyone tests positive, ended on Thursday 24th February. At the time of writing this, there has been no official update from the DfE but I wanted to send some communication around this as I am sure there are lots of different opinions on the decision. As a school, we follow national guidance and we will update you as soon as we receive any more information. As it stands this is the guidance:

- **Face coverings are no longer required in schools (national guidance). Local Public Health had previously advised to continue wearing face coverings in communal areas and no update has been given following this, but local case numbers have dropped, so we are advising that national guidance is now applied.**
- **Standard control measures for Covid continue. You should ensure regular hand washing takes place, follow 'catch-it, kill-it, bin-it', ensure appropriate cleaning regimes and maintain adequate ventilation as previously in place.**
- **No asymptomatic testing is required.**
- **As from the 24th February, anyone testing positive is no longer required, legally, to self-isolate. However, it is still advised that anyone testing positive does isolate for at least 5 days, and until 2 consecutive negative tests are taken.**
- **Schools should be prepared to step up controls in response to outbreaks, or to follow local Public Health England advice, if necessary.**

I have highlighted the biggest change to guidance, which is the legal requirement to self-isolate being removed. We would however advise, as does the Government, that anyone testing positive continues to isolate for at least 5 days and until they have had two negative tests consecutively. This is to protect our staff, our children and their families. Schools will have to act appropriately in the event of an outbreak, as per our outbreak contingency plan. In school, we will continue to ensure our hygiene protocols are still in place, and ensure our classrooms are well ventilated by opening windows and doors to allow fresh air to circulate.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Kind regards,

Scott Nicholls
Head of School