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**Headteacher – Mrs K Mason**

8<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### **Covid Rule Changes**

Dear Parents,

1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 marked a change in National Guidance for schools and I am writing to update you. This letter is based upon updated National Guidance.

[https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/?utm\\_source=07%20April%202022%20C19&utm\\_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm\\_campaign=DfE%20C19](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/?utm_source=07%20April%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)

#### **Vaccines**

The Department for Education informs us that healthy 5 to 11-year olds were offered the COVID-19 vaccine from the beginning of April. Vaccinations will take place outside of school, in vaccination centres, pharmacies, GP surgeries and walk-in centres. Parents of 5 to 11-year olds will receive a letter from the NHS with further information on the vaccine.

#### **School Cases**

As you are aware the national figures are high and school cases reflect this.

#### **PCR Tests**

Free PCR tests ceased to be available from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

#### **Lateral Flow Tests**

Free lateral flow kits ceased to be available from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

#### **Isolation**

Children who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They may come back to school when they no longer have a high temperature and are well enough to attend. Children with a positive COVID-19 test result should stay at home and avoid contacts for 3 days. For adults, it's 5 days.

A world without tests is a world we are now in. Most of us will not have access to Covid testing. Therefore, it is very difficult to decide whether to ask a child to stay away from school if they are symptomatic but well. There are a number of other respiratory viruses circulating and we are entering hay fever season. We therefore politely request that you:

- Keep your children at home if they are unwell
- Continue to encourage your children to wash their hands frequently.

This will be difficult for us all to manage. We know children will have mild coughs and colds. If in doubt, speak to the school office or myself.

The difficult balancing act of coming to school and physical health continues. As a school community, I'm proud of how we've responded to this crisis. Between us, we need to make it work and move forward together to keep children in school but also take personal responsibility for each other's health, as I know you have previously.

Thank you, for your continued support. Together we can make a difference.

Kind regards

Mrs K Mason  
Headteacher