



WIMBLEDON CHASE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Merton Hall Road
Wimbledon
London, SW19 3QB

T: +44 (0)20 8542 1413

E: wcps@wimbledonchase.merton.sch.uk

W: www.wimbledonchaseschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr. K. Ellis B.Ed. (Hons.), M.A. (Education)

Thursday 24 February 2022

Dear Parents,

I hope that you all had a relaxing half-term break.

This letter is to update you following the Government's announcement regarding their COVID reponse, Living with COVID [here](#). You can see a summary of the changes on our website by following this [link](#).

How the new guidance affects the school

Following the new guidance, we can start getting back to more 'normal' school days, but with the understanding that children and staff will still catch the virus and that there is still a possibility that there will be 'outbreaks' in year groups. We should take a sensible approach and be aware that there are still vulnerable children, members of staff and parents in our community.

The key messages for school are:

- From today, the government has removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test.
- However, adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least five full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received two negative test results on consecutive days.
- Routine contact tracing will end. Fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 will no longer be asked to test daily for seven days, and close contacts who are not fully vaccinated will no longer be required to self-isolate.
- The government has removed the guidance for staff and pupils to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing.
- Anyone with symptoms should take a PCR test, stay at home and follow government guidance if positive.

It remains our absolute priority to do everything that we can to protect face to face education so many of our safety measures at school will stay in place.

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- Hand washing, ventilation, keeping CO₂ monitors operating and sensible social distancing will remain in place. These are now a key part of school routine.
- Masks do not need to be worn unless staff or children feel that they are more comfortable wearing them.
- However, we will encourage staff and volunteers to wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces, especially where they come into contact with people they do not usually meet (such as on trips or on public transport).
- We will be reintroducing live assemblies, clubs and other routines that were paused because of last half term's outbreaks.
- If we do however, have an outbreak in a year group then we will go back to a zoned play area for that year group, virtual assembly for them, sit in class groups for lunch for that year group and lining up for drop off in the morning.

If your child has symptoms- **NO CHANGE**

If your child has COVID-19 symptoms, please keep them at home and take a PCR test. If the test is negative and they are well enough they may return to school.

Reporting a positive result

Please inform us if your child tests positive for COVID-19 and keep them at home. Please phone the school office or email parentsupportadvisor@wimbledonchase.merton.sch.uk to inform us.

We will then email you a Google form to complete with your details.

We will continue to monitor attendance on a daily basis and are hoping that we can open the school up to parents again as the term progresses if cases remain low.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Best wishes



Mr. K. Ellis
Headteacher

For further information and guidance:

How to order a PCR test if you or your child has COVID-19 symptoms:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Please keep children at home if they are at all unwell, even if they are not displaying typical COVID-19 symptoms.