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COVID-19 Return to School Arrangements

This document is an interim document whilst we await the Lancashire risk assessment template which will be published early September 2021. It is a joint document for staff, and parents – please chill with it, read it, keep it safe, and ask me any questions!

Welcome back folks,

Andy

Dear all,

How are you all?

I am writing in light of changes made to national policies on self-isolation and to provide information, and maybe clarity, on how COVID-19 will be managed in the school this term. Alas, we are still waiting for the RA from central government, and the LA.

CHANGES TO NATIONAL SELF-ISOLATION GUIDANCE

From 16 August, the Government has said that people aged under 18 years and 6 months or who are fully vaccinated will no longer be legally required to isolate if they are a close contact of someone with COVID-19. Instead, such people will be advised to get a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the previous 90 days. This means that should a member of a class test positive for COVID the class can remain open, but all children, and staff must book for a PCR test, and report the results. They can come to school whilst awaiting the PCR test result, assuming they are completely symptom free. Woodlands is a great walk through centre.

Regardless of age or vaccination status, anyone who develops any of the main, or peripheral symptoms of COVID-19 must get a PCR test as soon as possible and isolate until the result is available. People who get a positive PCR test must continue to isolate as usual.



Some likely scenarios are described below along with my advice:
"Be determined and confident as God will be with you", inspiring you to "learn, care and share through work, play and prayer". *Deuteronomy 31:6*

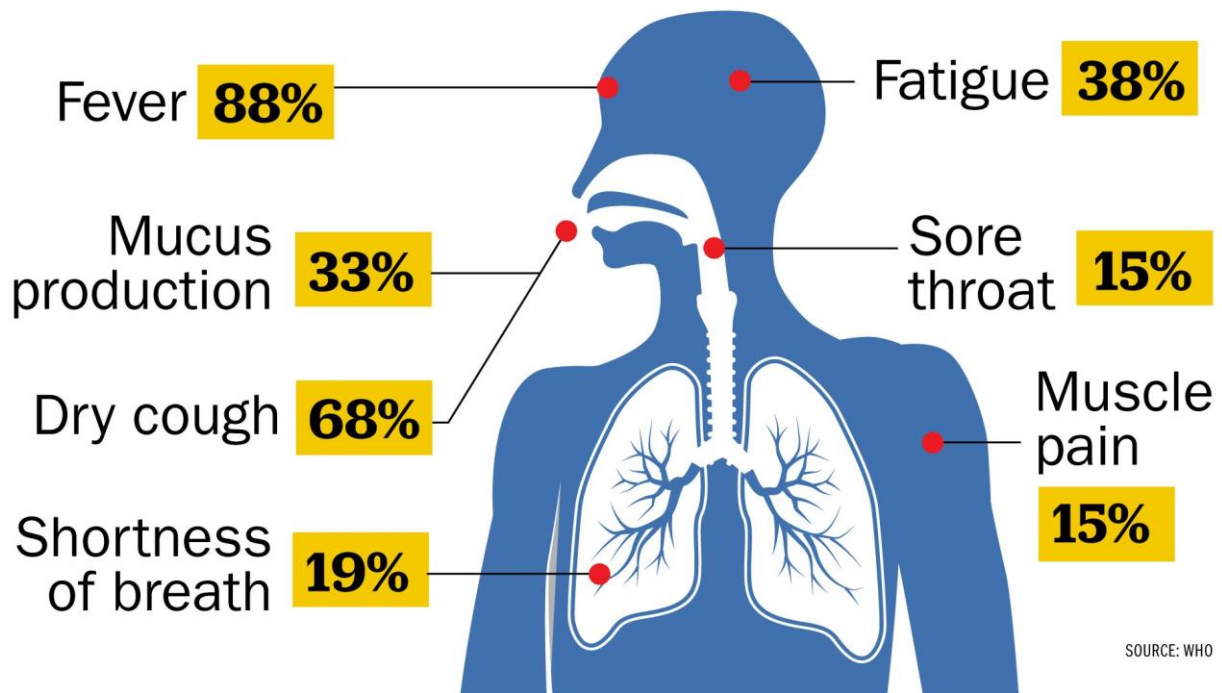




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What should I do if my child develops COVID-19 symptoms?

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:



If your child develops any of these symptoms, you must arrange for them to have a PCR test as soon as possible, and keep them off school. A PCR test can be arranged via the NHS UK (www.nhs.uk) website or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if you do not have internet access.



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Your child should self-isolate immediately and they should not attend school. Please contact the school by phone to inform us your child has COVID-19 symptoms and you are awaiting a COVID-19 test.

What should I do if my child has COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test?

Anyone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test should self-isolate until the latest of:

- 10 days after the onset of their symptoms, or
- 10 days after their test day if they are asymptomatic

Self-isolation means your child should not go to school, attend any out of school activities or visit a friend's house. They should not visit any public places, use public transport or go out to exercise. You should not have visitors into the home except for those providing essential care.

Please contact the school by phone and inform us your child has COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test. It is really important you let us know if your child has confirmed COVID-19 so we can monitor the number of children with COVID-19 across the school.

What should I do if my child is a contact of someone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test?

If your child is aged under 18 years and 6 months and does not have any symptoms of COVID-19 (as described above) they do not have to self-isolate as a contact of COVID-19. They are requested to have a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days.

Children aged 5 and under are not advised to take a PCR test unless the confirmed case is someone in their own household.

What should I do if my child has a positive result on a lateral flow device test?

If your child has a positive result on a lateral flow device test, they should self-isolate immediately and you should arrange a PCR test as soon as possible.



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Other members of the household do not need to self-isolate whilst you await the PCR test result if they do not have symptoms and are aged under 18 years and 6 months or are fully vaccinated.

What should I do if my child is unwell with signs of an infection but does not have symptoms of COVID-19

Your child should be excluded from school if they are unwell. If concerned you should seek advice from your GP or Pharmacist, they will be able to advise you how long your child should stay off school. Otherwise we would recommend exclusion for 48 hours or until the child is symptom free, whichever is longer. We are not currently advising that preschool children get a PCR test if they do not have the three main symptoms of COVID-19.

Return to School in September 2021

Government guidance now allows school to remove the **bubble structure, other social distancing measures** and **control measures** that have been in place for children. Our school will be doing some of this from September 2021, yet some restrictions will remain until the publication of the risk assessment, and until we know what effect full school reopening will have. Government guidance also means we can also remove our staggered start/finish times and revert many aspects of school back to how school was working before the pandemic started.

However, we need to be clear that the pandemic has not gone away and as per government guidelines, we now need to learn to live with Coronavirus. As such some general measures will need to remain in place. From time to time, our arrangements may need to be reviewed in the event of any increase in infections or changes in government guidelines.

Below details some key changes to be aware of.

Please see [Government guidance](#) for latest information

The School Day

The school day will revert back to normal hours for all classes as of **1st September 2021**.

School registration will be at **8:55 am**. Doors will be open by staff 10 minutes prior to this at **8:45 am** so children can come in, start learning and be ready for 8:55 am registration.



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Entrance Points

Reception children will enter through their own door off the infant playground.

All other children can enter at either end of the promenade corridor and make their way to their classrooms. A teacher will be present in class from 8.45am, except on a Monday, when it's teacher briefing day, when

- 2 members of SLT will be on duty along the promenade
 - 1 member of SLT will be on duty upstairs
- 1 member of reception staff will be on duty in reception.

*When there are 2 cases of COVID in a class that class will bubble. This will mean they will enter, and leave through their own entrance. for 10 days after the COVID case was confirmed.

As with all school procedures, we will be evaluating this as we move through the autumn term.

Reception entrance – Their own entrance, off the infant playground

All other children should flow in from 8.45am to 8.55am through with promenade doors

*Should there be more than 2 COVID cases in a class they will bubble for school entry for 10 days after the COVID case was confirmed.

Exit Points

Collecting children at the end of the day. School finishes at 3:15pm, with the exception of reception, who leave a little earlier at 3.10.

All infant children are released from school using the point and go method from their classroom door. Parents should relax around the child's classroom door, and await their child's dismissal.

Junior children are all dismissed onto the Junior playground by their class teacher, where they find their adult. Children who are waiting for a delayed adult should wait near the Garden, where their teacher will supervise the kids and ensure they are safe until a parent collects, or they go to late stay.

*Should there be more than 2 COVID case in a class they will bubble for school dismissal for 10 days after the COVID case was confirmed.

P.E



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One remedial measure that was better during the COVID pandemic was children wearing PE kits. Henceforth on days when the children have PE they may wear their PE kit. But please can this be uniform. Their PE top, or red polo top, black shorts, or black trackies, black pumps or black trainers.

Bags in school

Junior children can return to bringing a small bag to school to carry their school equipment in should they wish.

Lunchtimes and Break Times

Children will once again be eating together in the Hall and playing with other year groups. A rota has been produced.

*Should there be more than 2 COVID cases in a class they will bubble for lunch times, and break times for 10 days after the COVID case was confirmed.

Worship and Assembly

During the last 18 months whole school worship and any assemblies have been held on zoom. We know the importance of physically coming together as a whole school community and will once again be holding worship together. Wherever possible this will be outdoors, and this will be the norm. When weather is inclement the hall will be used.

*Should there be more than 2 COVID case in a class they will zoom in for worship for 10 days after the COVID case was confirmed.

School Events and Clubs

School events have changed dramatically over the last 18 months with many meetings taking place virtually and many usual events being unable to take place in the normal way. As we move through the Autumn term we will be keeping you fully informed of any school events and clubs we are able to hold. I hope everyone understands that at this point we are not in a position to outline **any extracurricular clubs** or **key events** and **we will do this upon the return of school in September.**

*Bubbles will mix in clubs. Should there be more than 2 COVID cases in a class then children in that class will not be allowed into the club for 10 days after the COVID case was confirmed.

We will not be offering a full menu of clubs as staffing levels are expected to be unpredictable.



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Key Control Measures

During the last 18th months, school has functioned incredibly successfully and is now confident and experienced in working in the pandemic. As school reopens in September 2021 we will continue to have key control measures in place to prevent transmission of the virus which are in line with Government guidance.

Ensure good hygiene for everyone

Frequent and thorough hand cleaning should now be regular practice. You should continue to ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser. All children to clean hands on entry to school and at key points during the day including break times and lunch times by washing with soap and water or using hand sanitiser.

School ensures adequate supplies of soap and hand sanitiser are available. Hygiene rules to be discussed with children regularly and posters displayed around school.

Respiratory Hygiene

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important. The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach is promoted in school and discussed with children.

Tissues are available and all children are briefed on procedures for blowing noses and disposal of waste. Lidded bins are provided in each area for waste disposal.

Children are briefed on the importance of behaviour and school rules are revisited with all classes. School rules have been refreshed to reflect COVID – 19 and are discussed with all children daily and are evident around school.

Use of personal protective equipment (PPE)

All staff in school have access to PPE as required and will use in line with government guidance.

Masks

These must be worn as previous. In all communal areas, plus when you are moving around school.

Temperature taking. Staff, and pupils should have their temperature taken upon entry, and pupils once more throughout the day.



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Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents
Enhanced cleaning of touch points

Each classroom has its own cleaning materials. All surfaces are cleaned at the start of each day, and at the end of each day.

Cleaning procedures are in place and monitored at start and end of the day and a daily evaluation of cleaning is carried out by SLT. Cleaning procedures include regular cleaning of touch points.

A daily health and safety meeting will be held between SLT and SITE STAFF to monitor the situation. These are done before the start of school each day to check all aspects of cleaning.

Keep occupied spaces well ventilated

When school is in operational, it is important to ensure it is well ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained.

All rooms in the school have windows which are opened to create air flow and ventilation. Where possible windows will be left open during lessons, if this is not practical, windows will be fully opened when unoccupied to fully purge the air.

At key points in the day ventilation is also improved through opening doors. At these times, increased consideration will be given to security of the building. All doors and windows will be closed at the end of the day. Any areas of school where there is poor ventilation will be identified and concerns addressed with the building surveyor.

Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine). If anyone in school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, the child should be sent home and they should follow public health advice. School will continue to work within Government guidance regarding Covid-19. In particular the following procedures are in place.



• Regular asymptomatic staff testing, to be reviewed at the end of September
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- Isolation and testing of symptomatic members of the school community
- Regular updates and reminders to parents of Covid-19 symptoms and school and government procedures
- children do not attend school with Covid-19 symptoms

Class Outbreak Management Plan

A class outbreak is defined as >2 cases in a class. Should this occur the class will operate as a bubble, but the school will continue as normal. (see previous)

Wrap around provision and school lunches

If there is an outbreak in a class, ie > than 2 cases then all children will be asked to take a PCR if they are unwell in any way. Until results are in this class should operate as a bubble in wrap around services, and during lunch time.

Class organisation

If there is an outbreak in a class, ie > than 2 cases then all children will be asked to take a PCR if they are unwell in any way. They will work as a bubble, zoom into assemblies and will be dropped off through their class door, and dismissed at 3.30pm from their class door/ specific class entry point.

After school clubs

If there is an outbreak in a class, ie > than 2 cases then all children will be asked to take a PCR if they are unwell in any way. Until results are in children cannot attend ASC's

A zone will be offered for lunch time, with children eating in their classrooms, and playing at the same time, but in a different location to other children.

Children will have break time at a different time to the rest of the school

School restructure and additional measures in case of Covid-19 outbreak across school

An outbreak in school is classed as 2 or more cases in 3 or more classes. In which case SLT will judge the situation in school, and take advice from PHE. It may be necessary to revert to the COVID measures and systems used previously. In which case these will be checked, and launched within 48 hours.

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Risk Control, Procedures, and emergency procedures that are still applicable

Key Government advice on control measure	Key school control measures
Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend childcare settings, schools or colleges.	Advice sent to parents and whole school community on self-isolation in case of symptoms. Children are to be sent home if they have symptoms and follow
Cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.	All children wash hands on entry to school and at key points during the day including break times and lunch times. School supplied with adequate supply of soap and hand sanitiser.
Masks must still be worn in communal areas, and when walking around school	These will be provided by school
Child/staff member becomes ill with symptoms or is diagnosed	Child to be escorted to the chalet. Member of SLT should be contacted Phone call home Review cases in class, and in school All cases will be reported in the weekly newsletter to parents



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Government advice is masks should be worn in communal and crowded areas. If not for you, then for me.	Please continue to wear masks during drop off and pick up
Parent helpers/visitors in school	Parents are welcomed back into school providing they have completed a LFD test within 24 hours of entry
Parents' Evening	Henceforth this will be a hybrid, with parents being able to choose with zoom, or face to face. If face to face an LFD test must have been completed 24 hours prior to attending school, and masks should be worn in school.
Class assemblies	These will, in principle, return with the same caveats for parents on LFD tests etc, and the principle that, where possible, assemblies will be outside.
Fairs	These will, in principle, return with the same caveats for parents on LFD tests etc, and the principle that, where possible, events will be outside.
The giving of medicine in school	In exceptional circumstances only, this is something that we will do for prescribed medicines.
The Staffroom	The staffroom may not be used as normal. There can be a maximum of 8 people in the staffroom, The 2 staffrooms will be in operation. If there is a case of COVID in your class, then please complete daily LFD tests.



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In the event of school closure.

In the event of school closure due to Covid-19, school will continue the education of all children in line with our timetables which will be sent home. Zoom lessons will have started within 48 hours of a school closure. Seesaw activities will be on line within 24 hours of a school closure.

School will only close upon the advice from PHE, or if staffing levels are too low.

Welcome back everyone, lots to do, lots will change.... Nothings certain,..... But I can't wait to see the kids on Thursday.

All the best, Andy.



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