

TESTING NEWS 4



This newsletter is posted on the website: www.woodmanseyprimary.school

From the website it is possible to click on the **SCHOOL BLOG** which is an online photographic diary of life at the school



With immediate effect following the removal of legal requirements.

Dear Parents, Carers, Governors, Friends, Staff and Pupils,

The following information is from the Local Authority.

All educational establishments

As we all aware, COVID-19 is still circulating and causing severe illness for a minority of our population. We have a collective responsibility to work together to protect those most vulnerable whilst also protecting face-to face education for our children and young people.

This means educational establishments still need to continue with **control measures**:

1. Ensuring good hygiene for everyone (hand hygiene & respiratory hygiene)
2. Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes
3. Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated
4. Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

From 24 February 2022, the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test has been removed.

However, both **adults and children who test positive are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 days**. On the fifth and sixth day, if negative test results are returned, the individual can cease staying at home and return to normal activity (i.e., return to school). However, if they do not return negative test results on the 5th and 6th day, they should be strongly advised to continue to stay at home until they have returned 2 negative results. Regardless of test results, they can return to school on the 11th day.

There is no requirement for any close contacts outside of the household to be advised to stay at home.

The routine wearing of **face coverings** in classrooms and communal areas is no longer required under normal circumstances. However, it is still strongly recommended that face coverings are worn on home to school and college transport.

All settings should continue to **report any positive cases** to the Local Authority.

The requirement to provide a **remote education** to pupils who are COVID-19 positive and staying at home remains.

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age. It continues to be a priority to ensure that as many children as possible are regularly attending school.

CONTINUING ARRANGEMENTS FOR MANAGING SCHOOL AND LIVING WITH COVID

The context at Woodmansey CE Primary School

- Cases are lower locally, however are still higher in school than they were in previous lockdowns.
- Symptoms are generally much milder than previously thanks to the Omicron variant and the impact of the vaccination and booster roll outs.
- The numbers in hospital are falling and this is mirrored by a low mortality rate also supported by new drug treatments.
- All legal requirements in relation to covid have been removed. This means that failing to isolate after testing positive is not a criminal offence and fines cannot be levied. It does not mean that those knowingly positive for covid or any other extremely infectious illness should not remain at home. It is now a matter of self judgement and care for our colleagues, families and friends.
- **It remains the responsible thing to do to self isolate if positive for Covid for at least 5 days with test and release from day 5 onwards with two clear LFD tests taken 24 hours apart.**
- We are no longer to ask for staff to report or take LFD tests twice a week.
- Staff and parents are however still to be asked to test if an individual is symptomatic for as long as free tests are available.
- Should there be an outbreak of covid in school, the East Riding Public Health will inform the school what to do and may require a cohort to test and then isolate.
- We are most definitely now in the process of living with Covid. This does not mean ignoring it. It means adapting our behaviour to the circumstances at any one moment in time.
- **The guiding principles at this moment therefore remain Hands - Face - Space - Fresh Air. We are not yet in a post Covid world.**
- Throughout the pandemic and including the start of 2022 we have adapted our procedures to protect our community, prevent infection, keep the school open, provide a full curriculum and support those at home.
- The arrangements for March are therefore our new normal. As indicated however it is possible that an outbreak could lead to the school being directed to reimpose previous restrictions. Similarly if the trends relating to covid continue in a positive direction there will be further relaxations.
- We have learnt however that some changes have been beneficial in a greater way.
- The priority remains to do everything possible to cope and keep learning on site, and provide our expected high quality education. This is to be done in the context of "living with covid". All pupil and school activities should be maintained and the few which were suspended in January, fully restored, recognising that in the case of an outbreak temporary restrictions may be imposed.

To do this we need to do:

- everything possible to prevent transmission between staff and pupils;
- go as far as possible to prevent transmission within class leading to an "outbreak";
- operate within the expectations of society in general, i.e. we are "living" with Covid.

KEY PROCEDURES being maintained.

Hand gel use
Hand washing
Cleaning protocols
Additional housekeeping cleaning mid morning and mid afternoon.
Use of toilet protocols
Corridor systems to avoid large groups passing

Good ventilation

Internal doors remain open.
Isolation of symptomatic individuals.

What I am asking of parents and carers

1. Parents/carers are asked to have an emergency plan in place in case:
 1. A class is temporarily closed, this could also include children of Key Workers, though everything will be done to prevent this.
 2. The school menu is changed at short notice if we are short staffed in the kitchen. A simple reserve meal will be on standby.
 3. School meal provision is suspended and all asked to bring a packed lunch.
 4. Breakfast and or After-School club provision is affected.
 5. To have a stock of free, whilst available, LFD tests in case of an outbreak.

Covid arrangements from 1st March 2022, the details.

The following applies providing there is no outbreak.

1. Staff are no longer required wear face coverings in any setting or part of the day although they may choose to do so.
2. Formal “bubbles” are now removed. Children may mix across year groups, though if a class has an outbreak, they will be required to become a temporary “bubble”.
3. Staff meetings will be held live in well ventilated classrooms. Staff may choose to wear a mask.
4. Staff may now mix outside of bubbles for lunch and refreshments, providing their class hasn't been declared a temporary bubble.
5. Staff are not required to take LFD tests, but if having symptoms are requested to take a test.
6. The school will keep whatever stock we have of LFD tests for use in such circumstances. Individuals are also requested to keep any stock of tests they may have, in reserve for any such circumstances.
7. The school is no longer able to order additional tests unless there is a breakout. Delivery of these however is not for three days!
8. Teachers still need to be prepared to have a lack of support staff and may need to adjust their teaching style accordingly.
9. Teaching Assistants may still be required to help cover absence at short notice and therefore each team of teachers needs to be prepared to provide lesson plans for TAs and for their partner teachers.
10. Teachers must ensure **now** that everything is in place for a new home learning pack for the next half term.
11. Home learning books were prepared for all children and sent home.
12. The previous expectation that those teachers doing catch up provision cannot be redeployed, remains suspended in case of teacher absence in the team, **however this should be a last resort.**
13. Part time staff are still requested to consider if they can in short term situations do extra days.
14. To avoid the lack of lunchtime staff impacting, TAs may be asked to keep working over the lunch break and then have a lunch break at the start of the afternoon.
15. Parents remain warned that the school menu may be changed at short notice if we are short staffed in the kitchen. A simple reserve meal to be always on standby.
16. It may be that the school will suspend meals and all children bring a packed lunch.
17. All school visits are allowed again.
18. Indoor lunchtime clubs are fully restored as previously advertised.
19. Assemblies will be restored based on the pre January model with FY to Y2 on Monday and Tuesday, Y3 to Y6 on Wednesday and Thursday. The Friday assembly will be filmed for the first two weeks. Providing all is ok, we shall return to one live Friday assembly on 18th March
20. A rewritten email will be sent to parents and carers summarising the cases present every day. Parents will informed that they should still continue to test children with symptoms before sending to school, providing free of charge test kits are available. If a parent does not have access to a kit, they must speak to the school prior to sending their child to school.
21. There will still be no waiting for a threshold to be met, as soon as a case is present, all children in that class should take a LFD test and repeat every day there is a further case. However this will be made clear that this is an option not a legal requirement.
22. If an outbreak is declared, Public Health will make the decision to change testing requests.
23. If parents and carers conduct a LFD Test on their children when there are symptoms present it remains a key way to ensure that an outbreak can be avoided and certainly a rapid spread .
24. Anyone identified as a family contact may choose to isolate, and take a PCR test and may choose to isolate until a negative result is confirmed; taking daily LFD tests for seven days.
25. All school events will go ahead as planned.

Throughout the past two years our whole community has worked together and been so understanding of our shared circumstances and needs. We have protected our pupils' education and together we will continue to achieve this. Together we are securing our future.

Yours sincerely



Michael Lancaster

Executive Head Teacher



Bethan Nicholls

Head of School