



Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have enjoyed being able to be more able to be part of school life in the first three weeks of term.

## **DFE Advice**

I know I shared with you the changes to our covid related risk assessments before the beginning of term, but I thought it would be good to share with you a couple of modifications to the advice we have been given from the DFE:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1011704/20210817\\_Contingency\\_Framework\\_FINAL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011704/20210817_Contingency_Framework_FINAL.pdf)

## **Procedure when a member of our schools is in close contact with a positive covid case**

The advice below is that we wait for Track and Trace to contact all close contacts, but we have been calculating these ourselves and contacting families. If a child had been in close contact with someone that has a positive PCR, we are asking them to also do a PCR test before returning to school.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a [PCR test](#). We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

## **Procedure when a member of our schools displays COVID Related Symptoms**

We are also asking families to test children if they are displaying any possible COVID symptoms. We have had many families do this already this term and all but one in Year 6 at Christ Church have been negative. We are challenged by the fact that we seem to have a “super cold” that many children and adults have too with the same symptoms.

Here is the symptomatic advice in the DFE Guidance:

**Self-isolate straight away and get a PCR test as soon as possible if you have any of these symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild:**

- **a high temperature**
- **a new, continuous cough**
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste**

**We are now also being advised to treat the following symptoms in the same way**

- **runny nose**
- **sore throat**
- **headaches**

### **Information sharing with parents**

Going forwards, and although it is not government guidance to do so, we will share with you if a child in your child's class has tested positive. This will be the case even if we do not consider that your child has been in close contact as we feel that will save unnecessary "fake news" being shared as I have been made aware that there has been some over the last few days.

Our overarching aims are the same as they have always been throughout the pandemic.

1. To proactively limit the transmission of the virus amongst our school communities.
2. To prioritise the children's learning and opportunities at school in the widest sense. They have missed so much over the last eighteen months we really want to avoid having to take outbreak measures such as closing year groups and reintroducing home schooling for a limited time if at all possible.

In addition to the measures above we are continuing to practise extra hygiene measures with increased hand washing and or the use antibacterial handwash and ventilating all learning spaces as well as we can.

Covid has most definitely not left us, so we need to work with it for now. Please continue to be extra vigilant as parents of any symptoms or cases that you are aware of in your immediate family and contact the school if you have any queries.

Here's to a term ahead focussed on learning. Please contact me if you need any further information.

Best wishes,

Avis Hawkins

Head Teacher