



RC/JAE

28 February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back from the half term break. I hope you managed to avoid the storms and enjoy some sunshine. Please see below for the latest Government advice on 'Living with COVID'.

On Monday 21 February, the Prime Minister announced the removal of measures put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic as we learn to live with the virus. This includes changes for schools, such as no longer recommending regular testing for pupils and staff without symptoms and removing the legal requirement for people to isolate following a positive test - this includes school pupils, further education and higher education students and all staff in mainstream education and childcare settings.

Here is a summary of what you need to know and what this means for schools.

Testing: The latest changes to testing rules do not mean the end of testing altogether. Regular testing is still advised for specialist special educational needs and disability (SEND) settings, alternative provision, and SEND units in mainstream schools.

All settings may be advised by their local public health team to recommend Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests to manage an outbreak.

What if staff or students want to continue testing regularly? Although this will no longer be recommended, staff in education and childcare settings and students and pupils can still access test kits by [ordering them online](#) or through their local pharmacy if they wish.


Self-isolation: From 24 February, the Government will remove the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. In addition, the Government will no longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days and routine contact tracing will end.

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While most children infected usually have mild symptoms from COVID-19, some may go on to develop more serious symptoms. Doctors are still learning about these long-term effects but we know that vaccination helps to protect against these risks.

More information on the latest COVID-19 advice is available on: [COVID-19 Response: Living with COVID-19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-response-living-with-covid-19).

Attendance: School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school.

Where a child is self-isolating (awaiting a test result) or in quarantine because of COVID-19, they should be recorded as code X (not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus). Where they are unable to attend, because they have a confirmed case of COVID-19 they should be recorded as code I (illness).

Fareham Area: From the data released this week, Fareham COVID-19 cases remain slightly above the National average. Please support us to help keep our pupils safe and well by following the advice detailed above.

Thank you in advance of your co-operation.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Carlyle
Headteacher




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