

February 24th 2022

Dear Parents, Families and Staff,

This letter is to clarify the changes that are happening with regards to Government Covid guidance and to provide you with information on the approach NEST schools are taking to follow the Living with Covid Strategy.

The last half term was a challenging one for our schools with a greater proportion of pupil and staff absence due to Covid and we want to thank both families and staff for working to ensure that we continued to offer as broad a range of educational opportunities as possible, including clubs and extra-curricular activities.

From Monday 21st February the Government has removed guidance for staff in educational settings to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic testing. This is because the risk of severe illness from Covid-19 in most children and most fully vaccinated adults, is low. This change will bring education settings into line with wider society.

From Thursday 24 February, the Government has also removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive are **strongly advised** to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.

In addition, the Government will

- No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated, to self-isolate.
- End routine contact tracing. Contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate or be advised to take daily tests. Staff and pupils should attend school as usual. This includes those who have been in close contact with a member of their household.

All NEST schools will continue with measures to reduce the transmission of Covid-19; these include:

- High levels of ventilation
- Good respiratory hygiene
- Support for those who want to continue with face coverings in communal areas

We would also appreciate your support to ensure those with Covid symptoms remain at home for at least 5 days and until they have received 2 negative lateral flow tests on consecutive days.

As always, any child or staff member that is ill, should stay at home and rest until they are well enough to return to school. Pupils who are ill should not join Google Classroom. For those pupils self-isolating and well enough to work, home learning will be accessible.

We will be reviewing further Government guidance as it becomes available. Thank you for your continued support of our schools; by working together we can continue to ensure the highest possible attendance for our pupils and staff.

Yours faithfully



Paula Farrow
CEO