

31st March 2022

Dear Parents, Families and Staff,

This letter is to clarify the changes that are happening with regards to Government Covid guidance from 1st April 2022 as part of its “Living with Covid Strategy” and to provide you with information on the approach NEST schools are taking.

The last half term has continued to be a challenging for all our schools with increasing amounts of pupil and staff absence due to COVID. Thank you again to both families and staff for working to ensure that we continued to offer as broad a range of educational opportunities as possible, including trips, clubs and extra-curricular activities.

As free COVID-19 tests and universal testing offered by Government will cease and school communities and staff are not an eligible group for free tests, all NEST school communities will follow the government guidance, published on 31st March, which advises-

- *Adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature*
- *Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.*
- *Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days.*

We would appreciate your continued support to ensure any children with COVID symptoms remain at home for at least three days. Any other illness such as sickness, or stomach bugs will follow the school usual practice of returning 24 hours after the last the last bout of sickness. If you are unsure of a return date, please contact your school prior to your child’s return. Please do remember to keep the school updated about any illness absence.

We also encourage all our staff to follow the guidance and stay at home for a minimum of 5 days following a positive Covid. We continue to work to minimise the risk of infection within our schools and other measures such as good respiratory hygiene, handwashing and ventilation will remain in place.

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