

Foreland Fields School
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Headteacher: Adrian Mount

24th February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

You will be aware that on the 21st February the Prime Minister announced the removal of measures put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.

Adults and children who test positive will continue to be 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.

Staff, children and young people who are contacts should attend their education settings as usual. This includes staff who have been in close contact within their household, unless they are able to work from home.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) will publish updated guidance on 24 February.

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/02/21/what-the-latest-advice-on-testing-and-self-isolation-means-for-education-settings/>

What this means for special schools;

- The DfE Operational guidance (February 24th 2022) states that staff and pupils within SEND and specialist settings are advised to continue twice weekly testing. Therefore, we encourage students within our secondary departments, who are able, to continue twice weekly testing and reporting results to their class teachers.
- In line with the Government guidance, the school will continue to advise pupils/students and staff who test positive 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.
- Pupils/students should not come into the school setting if they have symptoms. If a pupil/student develops symptoms onsite they will be sent home and should follow the public health advice below.



- The main symptoms of COVID-19 are a recent onset of any of the following:
 - a new continuous cough
 - a high temperature
 - a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If you have any of these symptoms you should order a PCR test. You are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people while you are waiting for the test result. Other symptoms linked with COVID-19 include shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of appetite, muscle ache, sore throat, headache, stuffy or runny nose, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting. Any of these symptoms may also have another cause. If you are concerned about your symptoms, or they are worsening, contact 111 or speak to your GP. In an emergency dial 999.

Most children and young people with COVID-19 experience a mild illness or do not have any symptoms at all. Children who have symptoms of COVID-19 are more likely to pass the virus onto others than those who do not.

It is still possible to catch and spread COVID-19, even if you are fully vaccinated. For most people, especially if they have been vaccinated, COVID-19 will be a relatively mild illness. However, COVID-19 can still be a very serious infection and for some people the risk of becoming severely unwell is higher. In some cases, COVID-19 can cause symptoms that last for weeks or months after the infection has gone. People who have had a mild illness can still have long-term problems.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts#what-to-do-if-you-have-covid-19>

- Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms or communal areas. **The school no longer requires staff to wear face coverings.** The school will however continue to put in place enhanced measures to protect our most medically complex pupils. In line with Government advice for healthcare settings, **visitors to our complex needs classes will continue to wear face coverings.** Any person, including staff who do not normally work within these classes, should wear a face covering if they need to enter these areas. Whilst the legal requirement to wear a face covering no longer applies, the government suggests that people continue to wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces where they may come into contact with people you do not normally meet. **This means that pupils/students and staff accessing enclosed spaces such as transport and shopping are advised to wear coverings.** As you know many of our pupils/students, due to their needs, can choose not to wear face coverings.
- We will continue to ensure good ventilation in classrooms therefore wherever possible, and allowing for pupil/student needs, windows will be opened to allow good ventilation.
- We will continue to promote regular handwashing with our pupils/students and follow 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill It' procedures.

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- The school continues to have a contingency plan in place outlining how we would operate in exceptional circumstances. This could mean us having to reintroduce face coverings in school, work in smaller bubbles and introduce enhanced cleaning regimes.

The school continues to put in place the following control measures:

- Ensuring good hygiene for everyone
- Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes
- Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated

We will place the updated COVID-19 Risk Assessment and Parent/Carer Handbook on the school website, once they are updated.

Do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Mount
Headteacher

