



We're working towards Artsmark
Awarded by Arts Council England

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Tuesday 4th January 2022

Dear Parents/ Carers

COVID-19 in 2022

On Sunday 2nd January, schools received an email from the DfE outlining measures for returning to school this week. For Westgate, this means very little change from the end of last term. All up to date school information in relation to COVID-19, including the school risk assessment and how to report absences, symptoms and test results, can be found on the school website: [click here](#).

Testing and close contacts

Please refer to the letter sent home on 14th December about what to do if someone lives with or is identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19. For most people, this means that they are strongly advised to take daily LFD tests. A very small number of children may not be able to do this. If this is the case, you should let school know (if you haven't already): your child may continue to attend school as normal unless they become symptomatic.

Please note that the advice on daily LFD testing for close contacts includes people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days: this is a change to previous government advice.

Face to face and remote learning

There is no indication that schools are expected to close. We are however required to have plans for remote learning in place, and for remote learning to be provided for children who are self-isolating, provided they are well enough. This is the same as it was last term.

COVID-19 presents schools with significant challenges in terms of continuity of learning and staffing, but please be assured that we will continue to do everything we can to minimise the impact on the children. Closure of a class will always be a last resort and I will continue to seek advice from the schools health & safety team and our local health protection team as before, in order to ensure that children, staff and families are kept as safe as possible. This includes:

- Regular hand washing/ sanitisation through the day;
- Enhanced cleaning routines;
- Well-ventilated classrooms, measured by CO₂ monitors;
- Adults wearing masks when moving about indoors and in all communal areas;
- Observing social distancing wherever possible and appropriate;
- Routine LFD testing for all staff;
- No face to face assemblies; limits to indoor contact between classes.

To support us, it is essential that parents:

- Maintain social distancing at drop off and pick up;
- Are vigilant about COVID-19 symptoms in the household;
- Seek a PCR test for your child if they are sent home with COVID-19 symptoms.

Actions to take


- Support your child to take a LFD test if possible (aged 5+) before they return to school tomorrow;
- Notify school* if the LFD result is positive and book a PCR test as soon as possible;
- Notify school* if you already know your child has COVID-19, and include the date their symptoms began (if applicable), the date of their positive PCR test and the date you expect them to return to school;
- Let us know* if your child is a close contact of someone with COVID-19 and, if so, whether or not they are taking part in daily LFD testing.

**The easiest way to do this is to reply to the message that this letter is attached to.*

Understandably, these are anxious times for many people. However the success of the vaccination programme is reducing the risk of serious illness and we are doing everything we can to mitigate the risk of becoming infected in school. If you are still anxious about the return to school, please get in touch to discuss your concerns and ask any questions you may have.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Carpenter', written in a cursive style.

Helen Carpenter
Head teacher