

**Email sent on 1 September 2021 – By kbeverley@parkspringprimary.co.uk**

Good afternoon

Please see the attached information booklet, which will help you and your families preparing for school re-opening on Monday 6 September.

We are now in a strong position to clarify this information, as we wanted to ensure we gave you all of the correct processes possible, while awaiting all risk assessments and instructions from the Government and Local Authority.

There are a few things below which we would like to highlight in response to the current regulations around COVID-19 and a few questions you may have. **PLEASE READ BELOW:**

**Q: Does my child have to come to school?**

A: If your child is fit and well, then they must come to school. Our priority is to provide face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health. If your child is unwell, you must contact the office first thing in the morning to let us know, or we will contact you to ascertain where your child is. If we are unable to make contact with you, then we may carry out a home visit or we may engage other agencies to help us identify that your child is safe.

**Q: My child has symptoms**

If your child has symptoms of COVID 19 then they need to stay at home and access a PCR test as soon as possible. The child needs to isolate until they have a negative test result. There is no longer a requirement for the whole household to isolate awaiting the result of that test or afterwards as long as, individuals are under 18 and or fully vaccinated or advised to do so by track and trace. An individual with a positive PCR result will need to isolate for ten days. If the PCR is negative the child can return to school once well enough to do so.

**Q: Can I send my child to school if they are unwell?**

Any child displaying symptoms must not come into the school grounds and should follow government guidance on self-isolation and accessing a test. As a school we can take the decision to refuse the child, if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other children and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. Decisions will be made carefully considered in light of all circumstances and current public health advice.

**Q: My child has tested positive on a LFT or a PCR test**

If a child tests positive on an LFT test, then they must isolate immediately and access a PCR test as soon as possible. They must isolate until they get the result. It is suggested that all close contacts swiftly access a PCR test as a precaution. The positive child/individual will need to isolate for 10 days from the symptoms or test. Other household members must isolate as well if they are over 18 years and 6 months and not fully vaccinated.

**Q: Will my child need to isolate, if someone in their class tests positive?**

If a child tests positive on a PCR then NHS track and trace will contact the family to identify the close contacts of the child. School no longer has the responsibility to carry out the role of track and trace. We will not be sending whole classes or individuals home as close contacts. However, we will notify you if there is a positive case.

**Q: Is there a requirement that staff, parents, visitors and children wear a face covering**

The government has removed the requirement by law to wear a face covering but recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces. Children are not advised to wear masks but for adults, this is personal choice. If there was a substantial increase in cases, then public health may advise that face coverings should be temporarily worn. We will advise of any such changes.

**Q: What happens if a child has symptoms whilst at school**

We will isolate the child in our isolation room and call for you to swiftly collect them and take them for a PCR test. Once they have a negative result then can return to school. Please make sure that there is always a contact available and that your contact numbers are up to date with the office.

**Q: Will staff continue to test using LFT**

Staff will carry a LFT before we return to school and will continue with twice weekly tests until the end of September in the first instance.

**Q: How are close contacts identified and what must they do?**

We no longer operate on behalf of NHS track and trace to identify close contacts. After a positive result NHS track and trace will contact parents to identify who may be a close contact. They will advise close contacts to take a PCR test as a precaution but there is no requirement to isolate if you are under 18 and or fully vaccinated.

**Q: Is the bubble system still in place at Lawns Park Primary School?**

It is no longer recommended that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups (Bubbles). This means that there will be some class mixing at lunchtimes and playtimes. If there was a substantial rise in cases, then we may be advised by public health to reinstate the bubble approach for a short time.

**Q: Could there be changes to these measures/procedures in place?**

We will have contingency plans in place as detailed on our risk assessment. We will have measures in place to ensure we have enough staff to maintain the high standards of teaching we expect should there be a positive case or outbreak. We may have to amend or resume previous measures if advised to do so by the LA or public Health England. However, given the detrimental impact that restrictions have on children and young people, any measures in school should be taken as a last resort.

**Q: Can my child walk home alone**

A: To promote social distancing and develop self-confidence for the individual, we are suggesting that pupils in Y5/Y6 arrive and leave the school grounds independently. Please email your child's class teacher to inform them if you give permission.

As we are sure you will appreciate, all guidance is subject to change, and should we make any amendments to our processes and procedures we will inform you at our soonest opportunity.

We are all looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday and we believe that working together we will help keep everyone in our school community safe.

Many thanks

*Kate Beverley*

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We are a strategic partner of Noctua School

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