



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this update finds you and your family well and I hope you have been able to enjoy the half term break. As you know, case rates across the South West of England were particularly high before half term and as a result we introduced some extra measures to ensure we limit the spread of COVID in school. Unfortunately, case rates remain high in Wiltshire and schools have been asked by Public Health England to introduce additional protective measures for the first 2 weeks of the new term.

Before half term we had the following protective measures in place which will be continued:

- Regular (Monday and Thursday) Lateral flow testing by all students and staff (please ensure this takes place).
- Students are asked to hand sanitise before and after each lesson.
- Students have the option to remain in year group areas, inside or outside, at break and lunch time.
- Students will have year group-based food areas and lunch time seating areas.
- Extra precautionary day time cleaning continues across the site.
- Increased ventilation throughout the school.
- Students are still asked to be in school by 8:30am, however there will be no 'Morning Welcome' for Years 7- 10 to avoid a 'mass gathering'. Students are asked to go directly to their Tutor Room at 8:35am.
- Assemblies for the first two weeks will be on-line.

Additional Measures – Face Coverings:

- Initially for the first two weeks of term we are going to ask all students (unless exempt) to wear face coverings when in any of the school buildings.
- Face coverings will need to be worn in corridors, communal areas and in lessons.
- Face coverings do not need to be worn when outside, or inside lunch areas.
- If you believe your child should be exempt from wearing a face covering, please fill in their details and reason here: [Face Covering Exemption Form](#)
- Please ensure your child attends school with a face covering.
- Face coverings will not be compulsory for students taking exams or mocks. They will be optional only in order not to hinder students.
- Face coverings will not need to be worn in Drama or PE lessons.



Testing

Please could you ensure your child performs a lateral flow test on Monday 1st November before they return to school on Tuesday 2nd November, then continue to test every Monday and Thursday.

Before half term there were concerns across the South West that a high number of PCR tests were returning negative results when lateral flow tests were positive. As a result, we asked all students to remain home if they received a positive lateral flow test. This led to an investigation and the closing of a processing laboratory in the Midlands.

We will now move back to following the national guidance. Therefore:

- If you think your child may have Covid-19, or if they have received a positive lateral flow test, you are advised to [arrange a PCR test](#). If the result is positive, you will be contacted by NHS Track and Trace. Schools are no longer required to conduct contact tracing, as NHS Test and Trace will work with anyone who develops COVID to identify close contacts. If you are contacted by Test and Trace, you are likely to be advised to book a PCR test for your child.
- Siblings of positive cases do not need to self-isolate, however we strongly encourage all close contacts to take a PCR test and would recommend that siblings and household contacts take daily lateral flow tests while awaiting PCR results.
- If your child is unwell, please keep them at home until they feel better and report absence in the normal way.
- If any students are unwell, please stay at home. Colds and other non-COVID symptoms are circulating but in the first instance prime symptoms should be treated as possible COVID and trigger isolation and testing. This is the case even if others in the setting /group have tested negative for similar symptoms.

Other School Activities

The reason for adding additional restrictions in school is twofold. Firstly, to ensure we restrict the spread of the disease, but secondly, so we can maintain as many activities as possible. Therefore, we aim to maintain our curriculum in lessons, normal movement around the school, flexibility for students to move around at break and lunch, as well as maintaining as many trips, clubs and activities as possible.



COVID Vaccinations

As announced on 19 October you are now able to book an appointment for your child to receive the COVID-19 vaccination at a Mass Vaccination centre, booking for this will be through the National Booking Service. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

Currently, we have not been given a date for the Virgin Care team to visit the school to vaccinate children, however we will let you know as soon as we hear.

If your child has had a positive PCR test result, there will need to be a 28-day interval before they can receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Finally, thank you for taking into account all the above information. I understand it may feel we are taking a step back by re-introducing protective measures, however, we believe by doing so, we will be able to limit the spread of COVID whilst maintaining high quality on-site education.

I wish you all the very best for the term ahead,

Paul Skipp
Headteacher

