



Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents,

## **RE: Update regarding the government's response to COVID-19**

The Government have made changes to the way COVID is managed and I wanted to write to let you know about how these changes will impact schools and request your on- going support to limit COVID infection among school pupils and staff.

### **What are the changes to government guidance?**

- As of 21st February, close contacts of people who have tested positive will no longer be asked to test daily for 7 days if fully vaccinated or self-isolate for 10 days if unvaccinated.
- As of 24th February, there is no longer a legal requirement for people to self-isolate if they test positive with COVID, however, the government continue to strongly recommend that anyone who tests positive limits contact with others for at least 5 days, and stop isolation once two negative lateral flow tests are conducted on days 5 and 6 or later but 24 hours apart.

### **How will this affect pupils?**

- Pupils who test positive will be asked to stay at home as above.
- Pupils who are close contacts will no longer be asked to test for 7 days.

### **Will there continue to be COVID measures in school?**

There will continue to be COVID cases within schools and therefore we will need to use some measures to limit cases including asking pupils to stay at home if they are unwell or test positive, ventilation and handwashing. The purpose of this is to limit the chance of large outbreaks resulting in staff sickness and loss of education for our children.

The Local Authority will continue to support schools that are experiencing large outbreaks. When there are large numbers of staff who test positive within a school, other measures may need to be temporarily introduced, this may include remote learning for some as a last resort. We will work to ensure that this is for as short a time as possible.

The government will be providing more guidance to schools soon and I will update parents with any further information if necessary.

With my best wishes,

Effie Demetriou  
**Headteacher**