



Monday, 28 February 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope you had an enjoyable half term. Please note that the Government advice regarding Covid-19 has changed and our risk assessments are being updated as a result. Some controls remain in place (e.g. a focus on hand washing, respiratory hygiene, cleaning and ventilation) but we are also looking to relax other controls in line with Government guidance.

Changes to testing in schools

The Government are no longer asking staff and families to undertake twice weekly lateral flow testing if asymptomatic. **If anybody shows any of the three main symptoms of Covid-19, they are still advised to stay at home and seek a PCR test.**

Changes to self-isolation and daily testing of close contacts

From Thursday 24th February, the Government removed the legal need to self-isolate following a positive test. However, the following guidance remains in place:

- **Adults and children who show the three main symptoms should stay at home and seek a PCR test to check if they have Covid-19**
 - A high temperature
 - A new continuous cough – coughing lots for more than an hour or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
 - A loss of change to the sense of taste or smell.
- **If someone tests positive (on a PCR or LFT) they are advised to stay at home for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow guidance until they have had two negative test results at least 24 hours apart. This is the case whether a person has symptoms or not.**

There will no longer be a requirement for close contacts to test daily. If you have a case in your household, your child can still come to school unless they show symptoms themselves.

We will continue to monitor Covid-19 within our academies and will inform you of any outbreaks should they occur.

These changes will support our aim that children can access every aspect of a Harmony education while remaining as safe as possible. Thank you for continuing to support our academies and the Trust as we seek to overcome the impact of the pandemic on children's learning and parental engagement and return to more normal school routines. If you have any questions, please speak to your academy.

Yours sincerely

A P Hughes

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