



Donnington Wood Infant School & Nursery

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learning, caring, preparing

Thursday 4th November 2021

Dear parents and carers,

We are writing to update you on how we have been working with the Council's Health Protection Hub to manage Covid-19.

The number of Covid cases across the country continues to be very high and whilst there is commentary and speculation about what the government may or may not do, the Council is not aware of anything more than what is in the public domain. We will of course keep you up to date with any developments.

With regard to the here and now, it is important we take proactive steps to reduce the spread of infection, bring cases down and minimise disruption to education.

In line with the government's guidance, from November onwards, the health protection hub is advising borough schools to implement additional Covid-19 measures.

- It is recommended that schools ask children with positive cases in their household to take a LFT test for 7 school days (including primary aged children – this does not include children in nursery).
- It is recommended that schools re-introduce some of the previous Covid precautions, which may include wearing face coverings in communal areas (secondary schools), staggering lunch times and virtual events for parents/carers (where possible).

Schools are able to decide which measures to put in place based on their individual circumstances. Our current organisation and systems include –

- Children working in year groups
- Any resources shared by year groups are quarantined or cleaned thoroughly between uses
- No assemblies with mixed year groups
- Designated areas and resources at playtime for each year group
- Staggered playtimes to reduce congestion in corridors and toilet areas
- Only essential visitors

- All parent events eg parent meetings happening on the phone or online
- Staggered times in the school hall at dinner time for each year group and allocated seating (not shared with other year groups)
- Educational visits are to COVID-secure premises
- Staff testing regularly (twice weekly) and more frequently if they are asked to do so
- Staff encouraged to wear face coverings in communal areas
- Staff and children encouraged to socially distance

We have determined that the following additional measures are necessary at this time:

- Face coverings to be worn by staff at all times when moving out of their working space and in communal areas. Face coverings will not usually be worn by staff when working with children in classrooms.
- Staff meetings to be virtual (as much as possible)

Your support to help implement measures in schools and educational settings is really appreciated. Please continue to help to keep education and family life moving in our borough.

Even if you have had your Covid vaccinations, check for Covid regularly at home with lateral flow tests, book a PCR test if you have any symptoms and remember hands-face-space and fresh air.

The health protection hub will review its local advice to educational settings regularly and we will keep you updated.

Thank you for all your efforts and support into tackling the virus.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs C Boddy

Headteacher