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Registered Company Number 07788995  
Headteacher: Mr B Lord

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Covid Updates

I hope that Covid-19 notwithstanding, you were able to enjoy the Christmas holidays with your loved ones. As we begin Term 3, I wish everyone a much healthier and happier New Year for 2022.

*COVID-19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with and the imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education remains.*

The Government's priority is for schools, colleges, childminders and nurseries to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education and care to all children and young people. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health.

The main messages are:

- nationally, education and childcare settings **are open, and attendance is mandatory (for schools)** and strongly encouraged (at childminders, nurseries and colleges). This means it is your legal duty to send your child to school.
- the [Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health](#) has made it clear that the overwhelming majority of children and young people still have no symptoms or very mild illness only.
- **children** and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been **identified as a close contact**, are **not required to self-isolate** unless they themselves are presenting with covid-19 symptoms. Adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result.
- your child no longer needs to remain in a consistent group ('bubble') however school will advise you should this become necessary due to increased numbers within a particular class or year group.
- face coverings should be worn by staff, adults, and those aged over 11 (including visitors) when moving around in corridors and communal areas. Health advice continues to be that children in primary schools should not be asked to wear face coverings.
- following expert clinical advice and the successful rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine programme, people previously considered to be particularly vulnerable, clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), and high or higher-risk are not being advised to shield again and this includes children and young people who were previously identified as being in one of these groups.



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However in some circumstances, a child or young person may have received personal advice from their specialist or clinician on additional precautions to take and they should continue to follow that advice.

### **Remote education if your child cannot attend school**

School will provide remote education for children who are unable to attend school for example if they need to self-isolate whilst waiting for the results of a PCR test, or if they have tested positive but are well enough to learn from home.

Please let us know if your child does not have access to a device, needs support with internet access for remote education or requires any other forms of support whilst they are unable to attend school.

### **Safety measures**

Since Term 2, Government provided CO2 monitors have been in use in classes so staff can quickly identify where ventilation needs to be improved.

In line with all nurseries, schools and colleges, we also have outbreak management plans in place outlining how we would operate if the number of positive cases substantially increased. We are supported in this by Lincolnshire County Council's Health Protection Team.

### **Positive rapid lateral flow test results**

Anyone with a positive test result will need to:

\*self-isolate in line with the Government's stay at home guidance.

\*book a free PCR test to confirm the result.

Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days following the positive LFD result, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and your child can return to nursery or school as long as they don't have COVID-19 symptoms.

However they must continue to self-isolate if their PCR test result is positive.

### **Mental health and wellbeing**

Some children and young people may be experiencing feelings of anxiety, stress or low mood as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Encourage your child to talk to you or their teacher if they are feeling anxious or stressed.

Online resources to help you support your child with mental health and wellbeing, include:

\*[MindEd](#) - a free educational resource on children and young people's mental health

\*[Every Mind Matters](#) - an online tool and email journey to support everyone in taking action to look after their mental health and wellbeing

\*[Bereavement UK](#) and the [Childhood Bereavement Network](#) - information and resources to support bereaved pupils, schools and staff

\*the [DfE blog](#) - includes [mental health resources](#) for children, parents, carers and school staff

\*[Advice and guidance for parents and professionals on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing](#) includes actions you can take to support your child and emphasises the importance of taking 60 minutes of daily physical activity.

\*Youth Sport Trust and [Sport England](#) have advice and support on helping children and young people stay physically active.

\*[Young Minds](#) - information on COVID-19 and mental health

\*[Think Ninja](#) - a free app for 10 to 18 year olds to help build resilience and stay well

\*[E-learning which can help parents and carers](#) to support their children and young people in emergency or crisis situations.

\*Barnardo's [See, Hear, Respond service](#), provides support to children, young people and their families



who are not currently seeing a social worker or other agency, and who are struggling to cope with the emotional impacts of COVID-19. Use the See, Hear, Respond self-referral webpage or Freephone 0800 151 7015.

Kind regards,

*C Webley*

**Mrs C Webley**  
Acting Head Teacher



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