



West Kidlington
Primary & Nursery School

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Friday 17th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for responding to some of the many requests that we shared last week. This has really helped!

Parent Meetings

Each child will have a Parent's Evening in October to talk through their progress and how we can work together to get the very best from your child. These will take place on Tuesday 5th October and Thursday 7th October. There will be a additional parent meeting evening for Mrs Reading and Mrs Pitchfork on Monday 4th October. We would like to invite parents into school for a face-to-face meeting (wearing masks in a ventilated room), however if you felt you would prefer an online meeting, via Teams, we can organise this. Further details will be released soon.

Face masks

We have several staff members wearing masks in school. If your family wish to a wear mask as you make your way to school, please do so.

Reporting illness

When phoning the school to report an illness it is crucial that you state why your child is ill. If you leave a message on the school answer phone – please record what illness your child has. We must record this on our register.

COVID-19 update

I have edited some of the guidance shared in the week to all families. The highlighted paragraph has been updated

We have been informed of several positive cases of COVID-19 within the school. We also have several children absent awaiting results of PCR tests. Please remember that the symptoms that need to be taken seriously are a new, **continuous cough**, a **temperature** higher than (**37.5°C**) and a loss of **taste/smell**. We have several children who have come to school with continuous coughs. These children have been *asked* to be taken immediately for a PCR test. They have been asked to update the school with their child's results. This is a very challenging time for Families and Schools. There is some uncertainty that I hope this letter does address. Please read carefully.

The key piece of information is that if your child has any of these symptoms they should not be in school. We do not want to have to close any part of the school.

As you know, the Prime Minister announced on 12 July that Step 4 of the roadmap would go ahead.

One of the key changes that will take place from 19 July is that education and childcare settings will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case – or in the case of children – the parents, carers or guardian of the positive case to identify close contacts.

NHS Test and Trace already manages the contact tracing process for the rest of society – including children who have recorded a positive PCR test – and has expertise in supporting people to identify close contacts. This letter sets out in more detail below how that process will work and what you need to do if your child tests positive for COVID-19.

Self-isolating and taking a test

1. If your child has symptoms, they should self-isolate and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a PCR test for them. If the PCR result is negative, they can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, they must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.

2. If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test, they should self-isolate and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, they can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons).

3. PCR tests can be booked online through the NHS Test & Trace website or by calling 119.

4. PCR test results will be recorded with NHS Test and Trace automatically, but you should also communicate the result to the education or childcare setting.

Contact tracing

5. If your child gets a positive PCR test result, NHS Test and Trace will contact you, using the details you registered when ordering the PCR test. You and/or your child will be asked a series of specific questions designed to identify who your child has been in close contact with. Being in an education or childcare setting with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact.

6. You will be asked to provide the contact details, if you know them, of any of the individuals – or their parents or guardians – who have been identified as close contacts. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch with these close contacts and provide appropriate instructions or advice (see below).

Many thanks for your help in reducing the transmission of COVID-19. Have a great weekend.

Kind regards
Mr Isherwood

