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February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

This week the government issued updated advice for schools. The guidance removes much of the legal restrictions around Covid, but asks schools to continue to work in the best interests of the children, staff and families.

Throughout this pandemic, we have always put the health and safety of our school community at the heart of all decisions made. All decisions made. Our experience as a school community supports the government data – that the risk of severe illness (hospitalisation) to children and fully vaccinated adults remains low. However, Covid has had a significant impact here in Great Yarmouth. We are aware of a number of children who were quite poorly when positive, and many staff too. Our greatest challenge for keeping the school open has been the health and availability of staff. For this reason, despite the changes to the legal requirements, we are going to adopt a cautious approach to 'Living with Covid.'

Question: Will staff continue to test themselves twice weekly?

Whilst the legal requirement to do so has ended, we will continue to ask staff to test so long as they are able to obtain Lateral Flow Tests.

Question: If my child tests positive, do they have to isolate?

*Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for **at least 5 full days** (the day of the test is Day 0), and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.*

Question: How will the school record absence during Covid?

Children missing school due to a positive Covid result will be recorded in the same way as other illnesses.

Question: Do parents/visitors still need to wear facemasks on the school site?

Throughout the school, there are a number of individuals and families who are vulnerable. For this reason, we would encourage you to keep wearing your mask when on the school site.

As the autumn and first part of spring term showed, we were right to be restrained, as the government and UK Health Authority guidance quickly changed we were right to remain cautious as cases throughout the school bloomed. We will continue to seek advice from the Norfolk Management Outreach Team if we have an outbreak in the future.

Thank you for your support over the past two years. We are excited to get back all our freedom, but believe we must do so in a manner and timeframe that supports and protects the whole community.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Collins MA
Headteacher



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