

3rd September 2021

Dear parents/carers

I hope you have all had an excellent summer break and are as excited as we all are about the start of the new term. An especially big welcome to all our new parents and children. Obviously now that we are all back to school, the weather is going to be hot and dry, but that is good because it gives us the opportunity to do lots of outdoor learning and PE before the dark winter months.

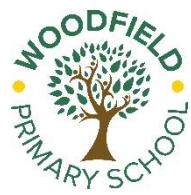
Important changes to self-isolation guidance and school attendance:

Over the summer break, the Department for Education reviewed guidance for schools; I have tried to capture what we think is the most vital information below.

When should my child self-isolate or miss school?	All children MUST attend school unless they are ill. From 16 th August 2021, children under 18 (or double-vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a close contact, has Covid. Instead, they will need to book a PCR test but can continue coming to school as long as they have no symptoms and the test result is negative. Please let us know if your child needs a PCR test because a member of their household, or a close contact, has tested positive for Covid.
	If your child develops Covid symptoms at home, they should <u>stay at home</u> and should book a PCR test, <u>NOT</u> a Lateral Flow test. If your child develops Covid symptoms at school, they will be sent home and you should book a PCR test for them. If your child tests positive for Covid, they will need to self-isolate. The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate if they are under 18 or fully vaccinated – but instead should book a PCR test.

Last academic year, like many other schools, we experienced some class bubble closures based on advice at the time. This is no longer the case. Please see further details and possible scenarios with corresponding actions below:

Number of cases	Description	Actions
A single child tests positive with Covid	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A single child tests positive for Covid in a class.There are fewer than 5 cases in the class.No other classes are affected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The child self-isolates for 10 days. Remote learning will be provided if they are well enough to completeThe parents of the child are contacted directly by NHS Track and Trace to establish likely contacts.Likely contacts will be contacted by NHS Track & Trace and advised to book a PCR Test



		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Children do not need to miss school or self-isolate whilst they wait for the result of the PCR test unless they have Covid Symptoms.
5 children or staff within a class test positive within 10 days of each other.	There have been 5 cases of Covid in a class within 10 days which could mean that Covid is spreading within that group of children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">As above for each positive case.The school will discuss the outbreak with Public Health and agree further strengthening, protective measures <u>for 10 school days</u>, which may include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Adapting lunchtime arrangementsReverting to online worship in classrooms rather than in the hallLimiting all non-essential visitors to school.
Covid cases continue to increase rapidly within a 10-day period.	Despite the measures indicated above, Covid cases within the school continue to rise within a 10 day period with multiple classes and staff affected, suggesting that Covid is spreading widely throughout the school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Meeting held between the school and Public Health to agree further measures, <u>for a further 10 school days</u>, which is likely to include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Re-introducing class bubbles.Reverting to class-based school lunches.Postponing all non-essential events. <p>Re-introducing remote learning for individual classes for 10 school days considered.</p>

The school will inform parents of any changes to Covid measures should these be needed. I hope that this term is uninterrupted for all our children, as we have some great things planned and we are desperate to have our school return to normal.

Just to remind you that SIMS pay is now called Pay 360 Education Payments. Can you make sure you have this app please and let us know if you have any difficulty. Milk letters will be coming out soon, as well as curriculum letters for your child that will outline the learning that is going to take place this term. One final thing is that we would like parents of **Year 1 children** to arrive at **8.50am** if possible please (not 9.00am as originally stated).

I will write to you early in the term, as I am sure there may be some changes/updates or additional information that comes to light. Thank you all in advance for your patience and understanding as we try to return to normal here at Woodfield.

Kind regards,

Philip Salisbury
Headteacher