

Re: Information for parents and carers regarding Covid-19 measures in school

3rd January 2022

Dear parents and carers,

Happy New Year to you all. I hope that you have all enjoyed fun-filled Christmas and enjoyed time with your nearest and dearest.

In light of the reported increase in Covid cases and the recent announcements by the government with regards to schools; we have been updating our risk assessment for school to ensure that we are able to keep our school community as safe as possible. A copy of this document will be available on our school website later in the week. I am writing to update you on some of the key points so that you can support us in keeping everyone in our school community as safe as possible.

Last term we have made the decision to implement some proactive in-school measures to reduce risk of transmission which will remain in place this term. These included:

- changes to Collective Worship
- changes to lunch time routines
- maintaining bubbles during play times
- maintaining ventilation using open windows and doors

The beginning and end of the school day are identified in our risk assessment as times that pose highest levels of risk. We ask for your support in helping us to reduce our risk level at these times. We continue to ask **all adult visitors to wear face coverings and maintain social distancing whilst on the school site**. This includes when coming onto site to drop off and collect children at the beginning and end of the school day.

We open the school gates 8.45am and ask families to adhere to the one-way system around the school site. **Please ensure that children arriving at school on time and are in their line on the school playground by 8.55am**. This enables us to ensure that we are able to take the children into school in their class group and reduces the risk of groups coming into contact with each other in corridors. It also ensures that all children benefit from a settled start to the school day which supports their learning.

Please ensure that your child only brings equipment that is necessary into school. Children only need a small, wipeable pencil case with a pencil, ruler and eraser. We ask parents and carers to ensure that children do not bring surplus stationery or other personal items into school as these increase our risk and also cause distractions when children are learning.

Please familiarise yourselves with the symptoms of COVID-19 and if in doubt about any symptoms that you or your children have please seek medical advice and follow advice to book a PCR test.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature

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- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

What to do if you or your child has symptoms

If you or your child has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, even if they're mild:

Get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if they have COVID-19 as soon as possible.

The person with symptoms should stay at home and not have visitors (self-isolate) until they get the test result – they can only leave home to have the test.

Check if you and anyone else your child lives with need to self-isolate.

Please **inform school immediately by contacting the main school office** either by telephone (0121 449 0441) or by email enquiry@moseleyce.bham.sch.uk so that we can put in place any additional measures that are needed in school.

Changes to Self-Isolation Guidance

The government have updated their guidance on self-isolation periods. Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.

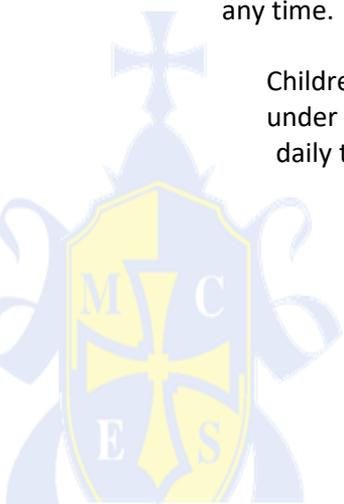
Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation. Further information is available in the stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection.

Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their

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contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection.

Enjoy the rest of your evening and I look forwards to seeing you all tomorrow.
Warmest wishes,

Mrs Gallagher
Headteacher

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