



Tuesday 22nd February

2022

Dear parents,

I am writing to you regarding the latest government announcement and the end of covid 19 restrictions from this week. I have written to staff this morning, much of the information below is the same that has been given to staff.

#### Lateral flow testing

Staff are no longer required to take lateral flow tests twice a week and schools will not be provided with any more free tests. We have divided what tests we have left out between staff, so that staff have access to tests should they develop symptoms.

#### Self isolation

From Thursday 24th February there is no legal requirement for any person who tests positive for covid to self isolate. HOWEVER it is still advised.

From Thursday 24 February, the Government will remove the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. 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, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days

If your child develops any symptoms of covid please use a lateral flow test, if it is positive please do keep them at home for 5 days. They can return to school if they test negative on days 5 and 6. They can return to school on day 6 or when you have had two negative tests 24 hours apart. I would advise you to have some lateral flow tests at home or order some while they remain free in case anyone in the household develops symptoms.

The government will:

- No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days, and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.

#### Testing - PCR and lateral flow

From the 1st April free testing will no longer be available, therefore it is important that you use remaining lateral flow tests carefully. You may want to order some before the 1st April so you have access to some.

- No longer provide free to order universal symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for the general public in England.

#### In school this term

The good news is that there no longer needs to be any restrictions in school, and for the first time since March 2020, schools can operate as before.

This means that parents will be able to attend assemblies and other events as normal. Parents evenings can happen face to face and events such as Easter celebrations and sports days can happen as planned.

Your head of school will be in touch as the weeks go on about the events in your child's school. Platts Heath parents are welcome to attend Friday assemblies from this week.

Swimming will take place for children from Kingswood and Platts Heath this term, and trips have been arranged for some children to London and Horton Kirby.

Children will still be washing their hands and windows will still be kept open in line with the carbon dioxide monitoring, as we still need to try and ensure that infection doesn't spread throughout our schools.

Thank you for your support over the last two years. I hope that the above is true and that we can continue as normal. I will of course write again should we have an outbreak or if guidance changes.

Kind regards,  
Emma Hickling  
Executive Headteacher

Aspire Federation