



# GORSE HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Carer

I would just like to welcome everyone back to school and to say I hope you managed to find some time for rest and relaxation over the half term. Last week the Government published its 'Living with Covid 19' guidance for schools which outlines some of the key changes in the approach to tackling the pandemic as we move forward. These key changes include the end of legal requirements to isolate for people with a positive test and unvaccinated contacts; the end of routine contact tracing including the end of advice for close contacts to do daily testing; the end of advice for school staff to do regular twice weekly asymptomatic lateral flow tests and the end of financial and practical support offers for those required to isolate.

Despite these changes, the current public health advice remains that people with COVID-19 symptoms should isolate and book a PCR test. Anyone who tests positive either via LFT or PCR test, should isolate for 10 days (but can do LFTs on day 5 and 6, and safely return to normal activities on day 6 if both are negative). While this is no longer legally enforceable, it is still advised for all staff and pupils in schools and settings. In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with the key symptoms of, or who test positive for COVID-19 should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending your school where they have a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, school can take the decision to refuse to admit the pupil as it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. This advice is in line with other infectious diseases and illnesses.

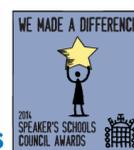
I have been advised that:

- Schools no longer need to advise staff to do twice weekly asymptomatic testing
- Schools no longer need to report individual cases of COVID-19 among staff/pupils to the COVID-19 Inbox
- Schools no longer need to send out warn and inform letters for classes that have had individual cases of COVID-19 (these were mainly used to advise wider groups of pupils to do daily testing following a confirmed case, and this is no longer a requirement)
- Public Health advice to all schools is to instruct all staff, pupils and their families that people with Covid-19 symptoms or positive tests should not come in to school and should follow current guidance

It is also important that for us all to continue to support government messaging for communities on safer behaviours to reduce the risk of catching and passing on COVID-19 by:

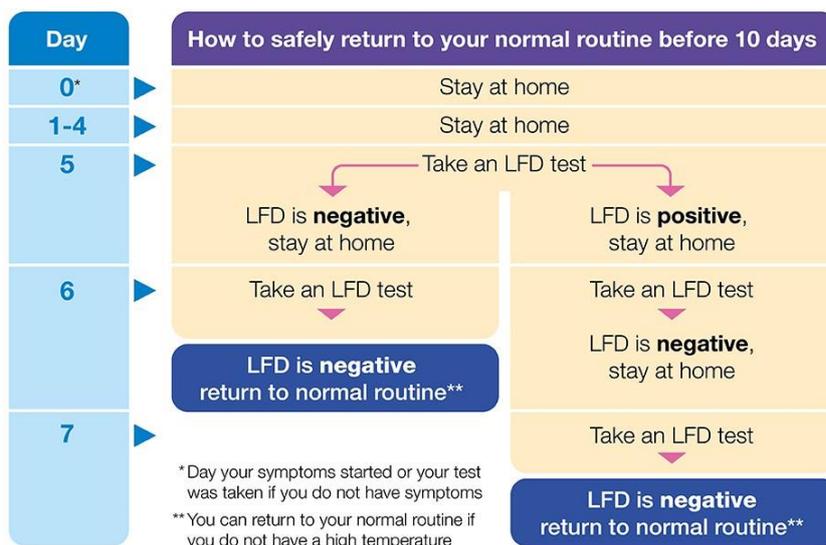
- Getting vaccinated
- Open windows to create good natural ventilation in classrooms and communal spaces. Remember to dress appropriately as rooms may be cooler than usual
- Wearing a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces, especially where you come into contact with people you do not usually meet, when rates of transmission are high
- Staying at home if you are unwell
- Taking a test if you have COVID-19 symptoms, and staying at home and avoiding contact with other people if you test positive
- Washing your hands and following advice to 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it'.

The current guidance is an interim position for the next few weeks. From 1 April 2022 there are further changes, some of which have already been announced, such as the ending of free, universal asymptomatic and symptomatic testing for the general public. We are not yet clear what further changes for schools this may



involve but we are expecting further national guidance on this nearer the time and will communicate any further changes as soon as possible.

I have been sent the table below and thought it would be beneficial to share with you:



As you are no doubt aware, the guidance is complex. I have tried to summarise the main elements, but I would advise reference to the official Government guidance which can be found at:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts>
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>

We may have to return to additional measures should we have an outbreak of COVID-19 at school or on the advice of the Director of Population Health for Tameside, but I will keep you informed of any new guidance we receive.

Thank you for your support as ever and take care.

Yours sincerely



Miss A Flood  
Headteacher

