



Holywell Primary School

Tolpits Lane, Watford, Herts, WD18 6LL

Tel: 01923 225188 email: admin@holywell.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr Coert van Straaten MA, Ed, Dip Edu, NPQH

we are a learning community with the spirit to succeed

1st September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As we learn to live with Coronavirus, I am writing to clarify protocols moving forward. I have carefully considered the latest DFE guidance, and whilst we set out to provide the highest quality of education for our pupils, I feel we still need to be cautious when everyone returns to school from Monday 6th September 2021.

I know that many pupils, parents and staff will have some anxiety about returning to 'normality' and the last thing we want is to go backwards. The research suggests that the clinical risk to pupils remains low. The guidance sets out the control measures we need to follow as a school, and in the case of an outbreak, requires us to revert to a contingency plans (sometimes called outbreak management plans). Our updated risk assessment will be published on the school website and regularly reviewed.

From Monday 6th September 2021, considering the latest guidance, we will implement these measures.

Bubbles and Mixing

There is no longer a requirement for pupils to be in bubbles around the school. The negative educational impact outweighs the risks of pupils learning and interacting in school in this fashion. This means that assemblies can resume and lunchtimes will go back to normal procedures. In the event of an outbreak we will have to revert to bubbles, but the number of pupils, the amount of time and type of activities that it affects will be minimised.

Tracing close contacts and isolation

There is no requirement by the school or local authority to complete Track and Trace. All Track and Trace is now completed by the NHS and even though the school might be asked to assist in identifying individuals, parents will be contacted by NHS Track and Trace if their child is identified as a close contact.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons



If NHS Track and Trace identifies your child as a close contact then they need to book a PCR test. Pupils and staff will attend school as normal even if they have been identified as a close contact, they do not need to wear a face cover and are strongly encouraged to take a PCR test.

Face coverings

Face coverings are no longer a requirement as in many public places but we are considering the use of face coverings in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This could be reviewed during an outbreak or sudden increase in cases.

Stepping measures up and down

The school has a Contingency plan in place that will come into place during a positive case or increase in positive cases. We will post this on our website when it is completed.

The school will uphold the following **control measure**

- **Ensure good hygiene for everyone**
We will continue with our regimes of good hand hygiene, good respiratory hygiene and the use PPE. The use of PPE will not extend beyond to what would be expected of a school.
- **Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes**
We will continue to focus on the cleaning of touched surfaces twice a day. This will extend to the cleaning of shared equipment and areas. We will continue to periodically fog the school.
- **Keep occupied spaces well ventilated**
We will ensure that occupied spaces are well ventilated. The opening of internal doors and windows will continue to be part of our daily practice.
- **Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases**
Parents, pupils, staff or visitors should not come into school if they have symptoms of Coronavirus, have had a positive test or are required to stay at home because for example they travelled abroad. Any member of the school community who developed symptoms will be sent home.

Staff will continue to complete asymptomatic testing twice a week. Anyone with a positive Lateral Flow Test will be asked to self-isolate and undertake a PCR test.

Clinically extremely vulnerable children must come to school unless they have been advised by their clinician not to. Attendance at schools is compulsory for all pupils. Any child who has COVID symptoms will be requested by the Headteacher to remain at home.

Travel

Parents who have travelled abroad, or who are planning to travel abroad, need to ensure that they are up to date with the latest travel regulations. Parents should keep in mind the impact on their child's education which may result from any requirement to quarantine or isolate upon return. As we know this guidance changes very quickly and is often updated.

Remote education

We will provide remote learning to pupils who are self-isolating or who are well enough to complete work while infected with COVID.

Our remote education policy sets out our provision. Reasonable adjustments will be made for pupils who can't access remote education.

Pupil wellbeing and support

We are well aware of pupils' wellbeing and equipped to support their wellbeing. All parents should make the school aware should they be concerned about their child's wellbeing.

School meals

School meals can be ordered as usual using school money, and pupils who are entitled to a free school meal, can order them from their class teacher. Please have a look at our school menu on the school website. Pupils will continue to eat with their class friends but can mix with other children once outside in the playground.

Educational visits

We will organise school visits for after the October half term, and will complete a thorough risk assessment as part of the process.

All parents' meetings in the first half of the Autumn term will be held online. Parents may request a face to face meeting, should they wish to meet a member of staff.

Pupils will use the toilets in their own classrooms throughout the day. They are required to bring a water bottle to school, this will be refilled in the classroom. Please ensure the bottle has a sports top to minimise spillages.

The school gates will open at 8:45am on Monday and pupils can meet their class teacher in the playground. School starts promptly at 8:55am. All pupils arriving up to 9:15am are to enter the school via the playground and a member of staff will direct them to their classroom.

We will update parents on processes as we progress through the academic year.

We look forward to welcome everyone back to school Monday.

Yours faithfully



Mr C van Straaten
Headteacher