

Endon Hall Primary & Nursery School

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Date: 17.12.2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the Autumn Term comes to a close, I wish to reflect on a fantastic term of learning and fun and express my thanks for all your support and resilience, including in relation to the continued challenges that Covid-19 presents. The children have worked so hard and their positivity and engagement is commendable. In primary schools, as the term ends, festivities set in and we hope your child has enjoyed participating in our sing and sign along, as well as various other activities with their classmates.

I would like to remind you of current Covid-19 operational guidance and make you aware of some new Government guidance introduced this week. These measures will be in place on our return in January so it's important that parents/carers are fully aware.

Already in place...

- Anyone with any of the three main Covid-19 symptoms must go for a PCR test and the individual should isolate until they receive the result. The main symptoms are:
 - a high temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
 - a new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
 - a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
- Anyone feeling unwell for any reason is advised to carry out a lateral flow test as a precaution
- If a lateral flow result is positive, a PCR should be carried out and the individual should isolate until they receive the result
- If a member of the household tests positive for Covid-19, you must inform us as soon as possible via covid@endonhall.staffs.sch.uk. E-mails will be checked just ahead of our return in January.

Lateral Flow (LFD) testing

LFD testing for COVID-19 is critical in helping to reduce the spread of the virus. In light of the new variant, the need to continue testing and reporting test results is more important than ever.

Already in place...

- Staff are testing twice weekly as a matter of course (this will continue over the Christmas period) and daily if we experience an outbreak
- We are encouraging our community to test twice weekly (this should continue over the Christmas period) and to test on 3rd January, ahead of our return on 4th January.
- All visitors are required to take a LFD test before attending

New guidance... Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19

- From 14th December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 has been introduced.
- **All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with Covid-19 (whether Omicron or not) should take an LFD test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating.** Children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate.

- Once notified as a close contact, all eligible staff, pupils and students are strongly recommended to take a LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [online reporting system](#) and to their setting (results would need to be e-mailed to us ahead of a child attending school each day). If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. Outside of the education setting, they should continue to follow [national guidance](#). This approach should also be adopted over the Christmas holiday and on return in January.
- The DfE has confirmed that **even if someone has tested positive for Covid-19 within the last 90 days, if they are identified as a close contact of someone with Covid-19** and are exempt from isolation, **they are strongly advised to take part in daily testing**. If the LFD test is positive, they should also take a confirmatory PCR even if it is within the 90 days. This is a change to the previous position because people can be infected with Omicron even when they have previously had Covid-19.

Ventilation

Already in place...

Since October, we have had CO2 monitors in place in all classrooms. This has been helping us to ensure that there is adequate ventilation in place. Ventilation is key and we will continue to ventilate class spaces. Please continue to dress your child accordingly.

Face coverings

Already in place...

We have reintroduced face coverings for staff in communal areas. These are not recommended in classrooms.

Contingency plans

We are continually renewing our risk assessment (we're now on version 34!) and contingency plan, to prepare for any possible changes in public health advice, ensuring that we are well prepared to implement them in case of any future changes.

New measure...

From January onwards, if we have an outbreak in a particular class and have to close the bubble, we will be asking siblings of positive cases to:

- remain absent from school for 3 days from the siblings positive result
- get a PCR test late on day 3 or early on day 4
- advise us of the PCR result before they can return to school on day 5 or beyond

Already in place...

Our threshold for returning a class to a bubble, on the advice of the Local Outbreak Team, is 10%+ testing positive.

Already in place...

Our threshold for closing a bubble and moving to remote learning, on the advice of the Local Outbreak Team, is 20%+ testing positive.

I hope you find this update informative. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued commitment to supporting children with their education and wellbeing despite the disruption of the pandemic. We feel very strongly about the impact on children's education and wellbeing over this period and will continue to do all we can to limit any further disruption to teaching and learning.

If the guidance changes, I will write to you ahead of 4th January. In the meantime, on behalf of everyone at Endon Hall, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Yours sincerely,

V. C. Lewis

Miss V C Lewis
Headteacher