

Cheapside CofE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Kate Searle

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Covid-19 Update – January 2022

First of all, we would like to wish everyone a very happy new year. We are looking forward to welcoming all the children back to school tomorrow, Wednesday 5th January.

Prior to the children returning to school, we would just like to update and remind you about some key things regarding ongoing national government Covid-19 regulations and our own measures in place at school which we constantly review. Our aim remains to keep the school community as safe as possible for all our families and staff.

Self-isolation

As you may be aware, there are new government rules for self-isolation which mean that in certain circumstances you may now be able to leave self-isolation after 7 days. Please see all the relevant information at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

Positive Covid-19 cases in school

We will continue to notify classes if we have a confirmed case in that class and would ask that you continue to let us know if your child has had a positive test or has presented with symptoms. The government continues to advise that the three main symptoms remain the same (a high temperature, a new continuous cough and a loss or change to your sense of taste/smell). Anecdotally, the symptoms seem to be broader than this including cold-like symptoms and as such we would ask you to err on the side of caution and check with a test if you are in any way concerned about your child's health. If your child is off school with Covid-19 and is well enough to complete work at home, please let the office know so that we can provide home learning for them. Home learning icons are then set up at the bottom of class pages on the website and information about the learning to be completed can be found here.

Regular testing

We would also ask that families continue to take regular lateral flow tests. If a member of the family or a close contact of the family contracts Covid-19, the guidance states that children aged 5 years or older are not legally required to self-isolate but are now strongly advised to:

- take an LFD test every day for 7 days, or until 10 days since your last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19 if this is earlier
- take this daily test before you leave the household for the first time that day

Please also note:

Regular LFD tests are not recommended for children aged under 5. If they live with someone who has COVID-19 they are not legally required to self-isolate, but you should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19.

Measures in school

The classes will continue to be 'bubbled' as they were before the Christmas break – Reception & Year 1, Year 2, Years 3&4 and Years 5&6. We will also continue to stagger start and finish times as well as lunch and break times. Assemblies will be delivered either in class, in 'bubbles' or virtually. Ventilation remains key to the safety of staff and children in school and as such doors and windows will be open in class and so it is essential that children are wearing appropriate clothing at school in these colder winter months. Please ensure that your child has a suitable coat in school each day and also their cardigan or jumper. You might also want to consider wearing layers e.g. a vest/thermal top beneath the school uniform. In addition to these measures, we continue to review our Risk Assessment regularly which takes into account things like additional cleaning, visitors to school, requirements for PPE/masks etc.

Measures around the school site

Please continue to follow the 'parent pathway' when dropping off and picking up your child from school. Where possible, we ask that only **one** parent/carer comes onto site to drop-off/pick-up their child to minimise numbers and that masks are worn at all times. Please follow our 'one-way system' by lining-up on the footpath when coming into school and walking back down via the driveway. We also ask that you keep your child with you and stick closely to your child's pick-up and drop-off times:

Year Groups	Drop-off time	Pick-up time
Reception, Y1 & Y2	8:40am	3:00pm
Y3 & Y4	8:55am	3:10pm
Y5 & Y6	8:55am	3:20pm

Older siblings to arrive at school with younger siblings. At pick-up, younger siblings will leave at the older sibling's pick-up time e.g. siblings in Year 2 and Year 5 will have 'Drop-off' at 8:40am for both children and 'Pick-up' at 3:20pm.

In the mornings, Year 5 and 6 should be dropped at the bottom school gate to make their own way up the drive. Years 2, 3 and 4 should be dropped at the wooden gate by the school office. For children in Reception and Year 1, parents may walk them around to the Adventure Trail end of the playground or drop at the Key Stage 2 wooden gates by the school office.

At the end of the school day, children can be collected from the Key Stage 2 wooden gates apart from Year 2 who will come out of the side gate by their classroom.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your commitment to keeping all our families and staff safe; we appreciate that these are not easy times, and we are very grateful for your support.

We are all doing our utmost to ensure that face-to-face teaching remains in place. As a last resort, should staff illness and isolation become critical, we may have to ask individual classes to stay at home at short notice, but this is something we will do all in our power to avoid and it remains an absolute last resort.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2022 and looking forward to positive times ahead.

Yours sincerely

Kate Searle, Clare Roberts and Lorna Anderton
Headteacher and Assistant Headteachers