

# Cheapside CofE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Kate Searle



Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We would like to update you and clarify the current situation regarding the Covid-19 response required in primary schools and what we can do as a school community to help minimise the impact of Covid-19 at Cheapside.

As you may be aware, since we have returned to school this academic year, we have had a few positive cases across the school. National guidance states that once we reach the required threshold for action, we will make changes to our safety procedures on site as promptly as necessary. Actions in response to an outbreak will involve treating year groups as bubbles with amendments to our safety procedures and routines for that year group in terms of minimising interaction with others and increasing hygiene procedures. Currently, we are not at this stage but will notify you should these extra measures be required.

The latest guidance on Covid-19 prioritises keeping children in school and states that 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

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a [PCR test](#).

However, if your child has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, either in school or outside, we would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if possible. Whilst the guidance states that close contacts do not

need to isolate while they wait for their PCR result, we have decided as a school that **we will** authorise absence while children who are close contacts await their PCR results. Once PCR results have been received, only children who test positive need to self-isolate.

We wish to prevent the spread of Covid-19 as much as possible, therefore we encourage **households** to continue taking the Lateral Flow Tests regularly for asymptomatic testing although please note that these are **not** recommended for primary-aged school children.

The main actions in school will be:

- informing parents and carers of cases in their children's year groups
- encouraging households to take regular asymptomatic LFT home testing
- being aware of Covid-19 in school and looking out for wider symptoms of Covid-19 such as sore throat, flu-like symptoms, muscle aches and headaches
- advising everyone about the main three symptoms, which are a new or worsening cough, loss or change of taste and/or smell and a high temperature, and asking that they should not come to school but get a PCR test, inform the school and only returning if negative
- encouraging close contacts to take the PCR test and as many households as possible to use the LFTs to prevent further spread in school.

As always, we thank all our families for continuing to do all they can to keep the community safe.

Yours sincerely

**Senior Leadership Team**