



BROAD CHALKE C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Amanda Brockway

Chair of Governors: Mrs Louise Hall



3rd September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you all had a very happy summer! It was lovely to welcome the children back to school yesterday. Thank you to all the parents who have contacted me about my announcement. I really do appreciate your kind comments.

We are returning to school after the summer break with far fewer restrictions than when we left for the summer holidays. Now that there are fewer restrictions, pupils will be able to experience a fuller education experience, including, access to more after school clubs, team sports and playing with friends from other classes. However, in order to mitigate against risk of infection, we are still going to limit parents coming into school unless it is absolutely necessary. This will of course be kept under review as we see how the return to school affects infection rates within our whole school community.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Here's what you need to know about COVID and going back to school as there are some very significant changes as regards being a close contact and the requirement to self-isolate. **These are the key changes:**

1. Mixing and 'bubbles'

Keeping pupils in a classroom bubble to reduce mixing is no longer a requirement.

2. Tracing close contacts

Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace. Education settings are no longer expected to undertake contact tracing of pupils.

3. Face coverings

Face coverings are no longer required for visitors but the office staff would appreciate it if visitors continued to wear face coverings when entering the reception area.

4. Self-isolate

Pupils should only self-isolate if they have symptoms or if they get a positive PCR test result.

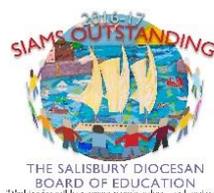
So, what will stay the same?

Coronavirus hasn't gone away so there will still be a need for schools to follow basic measures to avoid the spread of the virus:

1. Social distancing where possible.
2. Staff testing using LFD tests twice weekly.
3. Good hygiene including frequent and thorough hand cleaning and 'catch it, bin it, kill it'.
4. Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes.
5. Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.
6. Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases.
7. Informing the school office if your child tests positive; remote education will be provided.

What if there are a number of cases in school?

If there are a number of cases in school, we will be advised by Public Health.



What if someone has symptoms? Do they need to isolate?

Self-isolate straight away and get a [PCR test \(a test that is sent to the lab\) on GOV.UK](#) as soon as possible if you have any of these 3 symptoms of COVID-19:

THE OFFICIAL GUIDANCE ON SYMPTOMS HAS NOT CHANGED

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

What will happen for people who have been in contact with positive cases?

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 if any of the following apply:

- they do not have symptoms
- 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.

If a pupil is asked to get a PCR test as a **result of contact** with a positive case they may continue to attend education until they get the result of their PCR back, unless they have or develop symptoms.

Winter Viruses

We are bound to see a range of winter viruses, some with similar symptoms to COVID. We will send children home if they present with these symptoms in school and will ask you to get your child tested for COVID as a precaution. Even if the PCR test is not positive for COVID, if they are presenting with flu like symptoms, they will need to stay at home until they feel better. For a high temperature (following negative PCR result) this means no return to school until 24 hours has passed without a high temperature, as has always been the case. We want to avoid winter viruses spreading within school and also to make sure children are well enough to attend. If we all work together we can all help to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Amanda Brockway
Headteacher