

Headteacher: Mrs H Hunt

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## Living with COVID-19

Dear Parent/ Carer

You will all no doubt be aware that on Monday 21 February, the Prime Minister announced the removal of measures put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic as we learn to live with the virus. This came into effect from Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February. I therefore wanted to write to you to outline the changes that the [COVID-19 RESPONSE: LIVING WITH COVID-19](#) document means for us here at Caythorpe Primary School. Please be mindful that schools have so far not received any specific guidance relating to educational settings beyond what is outlined within this document. Over the coming weeks, I expect that further detailed guidance will be published, at which point I will write to you again. For the time being we will move forward as follows.

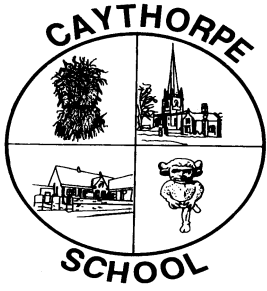
### School Measures

- Our school risk assessment will be updated in-line with the new guidance. This will mean the removal of some of the measures that were previously in place. We will however, continue to ensure that our classrooms are well ventilated and that we promote good hygiene practices e.g. regular handwashing/ sanitising. We have a CO2 monitor in every classroom and this helps teachers to determine whether their classroom needs increased ventilation.
- Our staff will no longer be taking part in twice weekly asymptomatic testing.
- We will no longer be sending out letters in the event of a positive case of COVID-19 within a class. We will however, continue to contact parents/ carers of children in a class who are classed as clinically vulnerable. Please ensure that we are aware if your child is classed as clinically vulnerable. This is in-line with the school's policy regarding other infectious diseases such as chicken pox, measles & slapped cheek.
- Should we have a large number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within school that are linked then we will report this to Public Health who will provide us with further guidance as to whether this is considered an outbreak and whether any further measures are required.

### Confirmed Cases and Self-Isolation

- Although no longer a legal requirement, adults and children who test positive for COVID-19 are being advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days. This is the case up until 10 days of isolation. **We will continue to provide remote learning for pupils who are isolating due to a confirmed case of COVID-19.**
- If your child has any of the main symptoms or a positive test result, the public health advice remains unchanged and is to **stay at home and avoid contact with other people**. Anyone with any of the main COVID-19 symptoms should order a test and is advised to stay at home while waiting for the result.





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- **Please do not send your child to school if they have tested positive for or have one of the main symptoms of COVID-19. Please continue to follow public health advice.**
- If a child comes into school with symptoms of COVID-19 then we will be contacting the parent/ carer and asking them to be collected. The child will also be isolated up until the point of collection and we will be asking that medical advice is sought e.g. by taking a lateral flow or PCR test, to ascertain when the child can return to school safely. This is our normal procedure for when we expect that a child may have an infectious disease.
- Our staff in school will follow the same advice as is outlined above.

#### Vaccination

- Vaccines remain our best weapon against this virus. By getting vaccinated, children and young people can increase their protection against COVID-19.
- Being vaccinated minimises the need for children and young people to have time-off school and college and helps them to continue to carry out their hobbies, attend social events and live their lives to the full. It therefore supports their emotional wellbeing and happiness.
- While most children infected usually have mild symptoms from COVID-19 some may go on to develop more serious symptoms. Doctors are still learning about these long-term effects but we know that vaccination helps to protect against these risks.
- As a school we would strongly encourage you and your child to get vaccinated if and when they are eligible.

Please rest assured that the school still has a risk assessment and a contingency plan in place. Both of these documents are available on our school website. In the event of a sharp rise in the number of cases in school, locally or nationally, we can react quickly and respond effectively to any advice or guidance that we are given.

As always, should you have any concerns or worries then please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Kind regards,

Mrs Hunt

