

Thursday 24th February 2022

Covid Update

Dear Families,

Update on COVID-19 arrangements

We are writing to update you following the [statement](#) in Parliament from the Prime Minister on Monday outlining the next phase of the Government's COVID-19 response. The Prime Minister confirmed domestic legal restrictions will end today as we are asked to begin to treat Covid like other infectious diseases.

It is hoped that this marks the beginning of a proper return to the 'normality' that we all want. We also have to recognise that the virus has not left Southwark nor the school and consequently in line with the advice from the Government it is imperative that our approach recognises our clear responsibility to our students, staff and families at home. The health and safety of our community is paramount.

As a result, we intend to do the following:

- We will maintain the school Risk Assessment for the remainder of the spring term in the first instance. This can be located on our School Website.
- We continue to promote good ventilation, regular hand washing and site cleaning.
- Adults may choose to continue to wear face coverings in communal spaces and classrooms. This would be a personal choice.
- We will continue to risk assess large gatherings, school visits and public events on a case by case basis.
- Our outbreak management plan remains in place and students and families should be prepared for the possibility of introducing more restrictions should they be required. We very much hope that won't be the case.

Testing and Self Isolation

One of the largest scale changes to current regulations is the end of the legal duty to self-isolate if you have tested positive from Thursday 24 February. It is important for families to be aware that the guidance from the Government stresses: *'Adults and children who test positive will continue to be 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.'*

As a result we ask the following at Ilderton:

- Where staff or students develop COVID-19 symptoms or test positive as confirmed by

Lateral Flow device, they should not attend school in line with Government guidance until symptoms abate (at least 5 clear days) and Lateral Flow is negative on two consecutive days. We are not able to supply tests for this purpose and they should be sought from chemists or the [PHE test ordering site](#).

Assuming no further changes to Public Health Practice emerge we intend to review procedures around our Risk Assessment and Testing and Isolation for the summer term.

We remain grateful for your support of the school at all times and will continue to keep you updated, should anything change.

Yours sincerely,
Carol Askins

Headteacher