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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we start the summer term, the regulations regarding the pandemic have changed. One key change is of course the end of access to free testing for covid 19.

Below I outline the key points that parents and carers need to know.

Symptoms of Covid 19

The symptoms of covid 19 have been updated. Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are very similar to symptoms of other illnesses, such as colds and flu. These include:

- a high temperature or shivering (chills) – a high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- shortness of breath
- feeling tired or exhausted
- an aching body
- a headache
- a sore throat
- a blocked or runny nose
- loss of appetite
- diarrhoea
- feeling sick or being sick

If your child has symptoms of covid 19 but has not tested positive for covid

- If your child has any of the above symptoms and a high temperature, or they do not feel well enough to come to school, they should stay at home.
- If your child has a cold and a slight cough, they can come to school if they are well enough and they do not have a temperature.
- If you have access to a covid test, then we would be grateful if you would test your child if they have symptoms.
- Your child can return to school when they feel well enough as long as they do not have a temperature.

If your child tests positive for covid 19

- Your child should not come to school for the **three days after the test** (e.g. if they took the test on Monday, they would be off school on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and return to school on Friday).

- If your child develops symptoms after the test then they should not return to school until after the three days and then only when they are well enough to do so. As above, they should not come to school if they have a temperature.

Home-learning

- The statutory requirement for schools to provide home learning has come to an end. This is because, with the end of testing, most children will only be off school if they are unwell, whether that is with covid 19 or another illness.

Measures in School

We are obviously very keen to keep the number of cases of covid 19 down to a minimum. This is for everyone's health and safety and also for practical purposes. The high number of cases we had at the end of last term meant that it was extremely challenging to keep the school fully staffed and every class up and running. We are therefore keeping certain measures in place for the time being and we will review them as the term progresses. Below are some of the measures that will be in place in school:

- We are not yet bringing back whole school assemblies.
- We are not holding larger staff meetings in person yet (e.g. not having all of our teachers together for an in-person meeting). This is to prevent one potential case of covid 19 taking out a large number of teachers in one go.
- Retaining measures such as good hygiene, handwashing, additional cleaning, maintaining ventilation in classrooms.
- The rules for adults in school who have symptoms or who test positive for covid 19 are more or less the same as the rules for children. Adults with symptoms do not come to school until well enough and any temperature has gone; adults who test positive do not come to school for five days (for children it is three days as outlined above).
- Twice weekly testing for covid 19 for staff has ended. Those tests that we have left over we will hold in reserve for "emergencies", e.g. issuing to staff with symptoms who do not otherwise have access to tests.
- Adults are not required to wear facemasks as they move around the school or in communal areas, though some may choose to do so. Some staff may choose to wear a facemask in other situations, particularly if they are at a higher risk of serious illness from covid.

Thank you in advance for all your support with the above. Working together has made a real difference in keeping us safe and well and having as many children (and staff) in school as possible. Our attendance throughout the pandemic has been above local and national averages on all but a few days, even when case numbers in school were escalating. While it has been very challenging at times, our efforts have paid off in minimising disruption to children's education as much as possible. We believe the above will continue to achieve this under the new government guidelines and, as I said, we will keep all of the above under review as summer term progresses.

Yours faithfully,

Tony Davies
Head Teacher