

# TWERTON INFANT SCHOOL & NURSERY

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## Update to All Parents and Staff

Date: **26/2/2022**

Dear Parents and Staff,

I hope you managed to keep safe during Storm Eunice and Storm Franklin and you have been able to enjoy the half term week.

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February about the changes to Covid-19 restrictions in England, updated DfE guidance was issued on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

I am writing to provide you with a summary of the new arrangements ahead of the new term starting on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February. Please note that in this letter, when 'you' is referred to, this information is also applied to pupils.

### Key messages

It is important to acknowledge that Covid-19 has not gone away and that it is very likely that we will continue to be aware of positive cases in our school community. We, therefore, continue to have a shared responsibility to minimise the risk of transmission of Covid-19 through continuing to implement key control measures and by following Public Health advice. With this, however, it is a priority to move forward, in line with the revised guidance, and to adopt increasing normality, to ensure that pupils face limited disruption and are provided with opportunities to thrive.

### Public Health advice to self-isolate

There is no longer a legal requirement for people with Covid-19 to self-isolate, however for anyone with any of the main symptoms of Covid-19 or a positive test result, Public Health advice is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

### Symptoms of Covid-19

The main symptoms of Covid-19 are a recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Whilst it may be considered that a wide range of symptoms are related to Covid-19, the three key symptoms, listed above, remain the only ones to determine a PCR test/self-isolation.

If you have any of the key symptoms you [should order a PCR test](#) and stay at home, avoiding contact with other people whilst waiting for the test result.

### Infectious period and day 5 and 6 testing

If you have Covid-19 you can infect other people from 2 days before your symptoms start, and for up to 10 days after. You may choose to take an LFD test from 5 days after your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you did not have symptoms) followed by another LFD test the next day. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, the risk that you are still infectious is much lower and

you can safely return to your normal routine. If your day 5 LFD test result is positive, you can continue taking LFD tests until you receive 2 consecutive negative test results, 24 hours apart (or you have completed 10 days of isolation, whichever is sooner).

Children with Covid-19 should not attend school while they are infectious. They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they should return to school as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature.

### **Close Contacts of a positive case of Covid-19 and contact tracing**

Close contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests, and contact tracing has ended.

There is, however, additional guidance for those close contacts who have had overnight contact. Please refer to this guidance. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts>

**Children who live with someone who has COVID-19 should continue to attend the school as normal.**

### **Asymptomatic and Symptomatic Testing**

Twice weekly asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended in schools and, therefore, LFD tests are not being supplied to schools. From 1<sup>st</sup> April, asymptomatic and symptomatic testing will cease.

**With the understanding that all testing will cease from 1<sup>st</sup> April, I fully expect revised government guidance will be issued at the end of March. At this stage I remain unclear about the access to LFD tests in the interim period.**

### **Attendance**

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age.

Where a child is self-isolating (awaiting a test result) or in quarantine because of Covid-19, they will be recorded as code X (not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus). Where they are unable to attend because they have a confirmed case of Covid-19 they will be recorded as code I (illness).

Children who live with someone who has Covid-19 should continue to attend the school as normal.

#### **When children should not attend school**

Those who have a positive Covid-19 test result or who are symptomatic, to the three identified symptoms, must not attend school, in line with Public Health advice.

Also, in line with SWHPT advice, children should not attend school when they are unwell. For example, if they have muscle ache or a hacking cough, as these are strong indicators of illness.

#### **When children can attend school**

In line with SWHPT advice, children can attend school with a tickly or lingering cough, or a runny nose.

#### **Schools can use their reasonable judgement to prevent a child from attending school**

If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending school where they have a confirmed or suspected case of Covid-19, school can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, with reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with Covid-19.

## **Continued Control Measures, we will:**

### **Ensure good hygiene for everyone.**

Frequent and thorough hand cleaning will continue to be regular practice. We will continue to ensure that clean their hands regularly with soap and water or hand sanitiser. The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important.

### **Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.**

Regular cleaning of areas, with a focus on frequently touched surfaces, remains a priority.

### **Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.**

We will balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature. CO2 monitors have been provided to each classroom, so staff can quickly identify where ventilation needs to be improved.

### **Follow Public Health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid-19.**

## **Face coverings**

Face coverings are no longer advised for staff, however we are happy for staff, visitors and parents to continue to wear these, especially in confined spaces. Public Health has never advised that primary school pupils should wear a face covering.

## **Informing school of a positive Covid-19 result**

Parents must continue to inform school if their child has a positive Covid-19 test result or has Covid-19 symptoms. Parents should detail the date of the onset of symptoms or the date of the positive test result. Parents should also inform school of the anticipated return date and any information associated with negative test results on day 5 and day 6. Please contact the school office on 01225 423526 or send an SMS to 07786 201170.

## **Contingency planning - stepping measures up and down**

Our contingency plan remains in place, meaning that we may need to take additional measures, in line with Public Health determined thresholds. Any decision to implement these would be in consultation with Public Health and the governing body.

## **Pupil well-being and support**

Some pupils may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as anxiety, stress or low mood. Please see a useful government resource for staff, pupils and parents at [mental-health-resources](#) .

## **Government Guidance - updated 24th February, 2022**

Please refer to the full government guidance issued on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February, and which continues to be updated.

[Schools COVID-19 operational guidance](#)

[Contingency framework for education and childcare settings](#)

## **Planned measures in school**

- Assemblies will take place in the hall with ventilation.
- Meetings with parents will be face to face or via Teams/Zoom, by appointment.
- The programme of extra-curricular activities will continue in full.
- CO2 monitors will be in place in classrooms. These will indicate good ventilation and when windows should be fully opened. All other spaces will be well ventilated.

- Hygiene messages will be promoted at all times. Staff will remind children about good handwashing routines and these will take place throughout the day, along with the use of hand sanitiser.
- All school meals and packed lunches will be eaten in the dining hall on a staggered arrangement with ventilation.
- Pupils in Breakfast Club will no longer be separated by age/year group and will mix as they wish.
- We will recommend that all visitors to the school should wear a face covering.
- Drop off and pick up arrangements will remain the same.

We continue to have a shared responsibility to mitigate against the risk of transmission of Covid-19 in school, and with this, ensure school life is as uninterrupted as possible for children. It is likely, as last term, that we will need to continue to manage staff absence, and your support in following the guidance set out in this letter will help us with this.

Thank you, very much, for your continued support and especially as we have been managing government guidance and reacting to situations associated with Covid-19 for nearly 2 years.

Whilst we will continue to work in line with all guidance and revised guidance, I certainly hope that school life will feel much more normal very soon and that more school events and activities will be able to take place for both children and families to enjoy and benefit from.

Yours sincerely,



Mr G. Samios  
**Headteacher**