

Barley Lane School

Friendship, Optimism, Hardwork

Acting Headteacher COVID Update

12th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, if you are not already aware, Mr. Long has been quite ill during the last week having tested positive for COVID, but thankfully improving although we are unsure when he will return at this time and we wish him a speedy recovery. AS some of you may know he is young, fit and healthy and has had both vaccination jabs; if ever there was a time to be vigilant, it is now. Please continue to help us to keep our community safe.

Confusion still surrounds COVID as we enter another transitional period out of restriction and it's been a particularly challenging 18 months for our community and so we are very grateful for the support and encouragement from parents. The pupils are responding really maturely but it has been de-moralizing after such enormous collective efforts for the need for more self-isolation in some staff and pupils.

One piece of guidance that needs clearing up however...

If you are a close contact of someone who has tested positive you must isolate for 10 days regardless of a negative PCR test, as symptoms can develop within this period. This is PHE guidance.

If you have a negative PCR as a result of a positive LFT in your bubble then you can return to school immediately.

All pupils who are isolating currently, have come into contact with a positive case and so must isolate for the entire 10 day period/s.

Praise from Public Health, DCC and Babcock professionals

Please be reassured that when we are informed of a positive case we follow the processes laid down by Public Health. In fact, Public Health, DCC and Babcock professionals have praised us for effective use of our robust systems. It's very time consuming and takes a team of staff away from their work with the children but has been absolutely necessary.

Public Health have advised us that given the rise in Covid we should expect some more positive cases in our community over the coming days and weeks.

Personal Responsibility - Reducing Covid Transmission

We are working hard as a community to maintain rituals and routines that have become familiar and in addition we will be sticking to those routines after 'freedom day' July 19th in order to keep everyone safer leading into the summer break and this includes

- The staff continue to twice weekly (Sunday and Wednesday) Lateral Flow Test
- Hand sanitizing at the start and end of every day, lesson, break and lunch or indeed at any opportunity

Never look down on anybody unless you are helping him up. Jesse Jackson

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- 2m Social distance and the optional wearing of masks in corridors and communal areas
- Ventilation of rooms and corridors – this has been and remains a key element of COVID safety

Response to Latest Government Announcement

You may have seen from the national news that the government has now published the actions school leaders should take to reduce the risk of transmission of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in their school as the country moves to Step 4 of the road map.

The guidance clearly states that schools may continue with their bubble arrangements until the end of the summer term if the school remains open at Step 4. It is therefore our intention to continue with the current arrangements until the end of term. Pupils are familiar with the systems and routines in place and to revert back to the normal arrangements for a short period of time would be detrimental to the smooth running of the school.

We can also confirm that it is our intention to return to COVID bubble arrangements from September 2021. Further information on arrangements for September will be shared before the start of the new academic year.

Again, in September, we will continue to have in place appropriate control measures such as: hand sanitization hygiene for everyone, appropriate cleaning regimes, well ventilated spaces, following Public Health England advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragements.

Yours faithfully

David Jones

Acting Headteacher