

1st April 2022

Changes to COVID-19 guidance from 1st April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to make you aware of the change in the Department for Education COVID-19 guidance for schools. This is a significant change in the way in which COVID-19 is managed, therefore I would appreciate it if you could apply the following Department for Education guidance should you think your child has symptoms of the virus.

- adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature
- children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend
- adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days

The population now has much stronger protection against COVID-19 than at any other point in the pandemic. This means we can begin to manage the virus like other respiratory infections, thanks to the success of the vaccination programme and access to antivirals, alongside natural immunity and increased scientific and public understanding about how to manage risk.

For education and childcare settings from Friday 1 April:

- regular asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended in any education or childcare setting, including in SEND, alternative provision and children's social care settings. Therefore, settings will no longer be able to order test kits

I would like to reiterate the last point which means that lateral flow tests will no longer be available from Abbey Park School.

In terms of mitigating against the virus we will continue to encourage the following:

- Wearing of face masks in communal areas/Classrooms for a staff, pupils and visitors although this will remain at an individual's discretion.
- Hand Hygiene – Encourage pupils to use hand sanitiser
- Catch it, Bin it, Kill it – Encourage pupils to use tissues
- Ventilation of classrooms – open windows and doors in classrooms to keep air flowing
- Use of CO2 monitors – these have been distributed across the school.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter. If you do have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely

Mr Young

Principal
Abbey Park School