

The James Cambell Primary School
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14th September 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

COVID-19

I thought it might be helpful to provide you with some questions and answers on the new COVID-19 (coronavirus) guidelines. In its approach, the school follows the advice provided by the Department for Education and the Borough's Director of Public Health.

What are the main changes for schools since last term?

- Children who are under 18 and adults who are double vaccinated do **not** need to isolate if they are close contacts of a positive coronavirus case. This means that it is no longer necessary for whole classes to isolate when there is a positive case.
- There are no 'bubbles' – children from different year groups are able to mix.
- There is no need for parents and carers to wear face masks when outside picking up and collecting children, although you may choose to do so.
- The responsibility for identifying close contacts has passed from the school to NHS Test and Trace.

What measures are being taken by the school to reduce the risk of infection?

- Good hand hygiene – all children are using hand sanitiser before entering the school building.
- All staff are taking lateral flow tests twice a week.
- Good ventilation – windows and doors are being kept open whenever possible.
- Frequent wiping of shared equipment (such as PE equipment and science resources).

Are parents allowed inside the school?

- Parents and carers are welcome to come to the school for arranged appointments and meetings.
- We would, however, ask you to wear face masks when moving around inside the building (unless you are exempt).

My child has symptoms of coronavirus – what should I do?

- If your child has coronavirus symptoms, please do **not** bring them or any siblings into school. Please contact the school to let us know.

- You will need to arrange for a PCR test for the child and any siblings (we can provide you with advice on how to do this).
- The symptoms of coronavirus are:
 - a high temperature (this means the child feels hot to touch on their chest or back)
 - a new, continuous cough
 - a loss or change to the sense of smell or taste

Are there likely to be any changes to this advice?

- There may be a need to change the prevention measures, particularly if there is a rise in infections within the school or the wider community.
- We will, of course, inform you of any significant changes.

I appreciate that the guidelines – and the frequent changes – can be confusing and we are very happy to answer any further questions you may have. If in doubt, please contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Wilson
Headteacher