

**Headteacher**

Gillian Jackson

Email

admin@beechfield.herts.sch.uk

Tel

01923 221269

Twitter

@BFS_Watford

AddressGammons Lane
Watford
Herts
WD24 5TY**Web**

www.beechfield.herts.sch.uk

Facebook

Beechfield School

Monday, 6 September 2021

Dear Parents,

RE: Changes to coronavirus (COVID-19) measures from September 2021

Thank you for your help and support last year and for working with us through what has been a challenging time for everyone. In line with the government's roadmap out of lockdown, many control measures ceased to be legal requirements on the 19 July. This letter outlines some of the major changes going forwards.

Testing and self-isolation

The school is no longer responsible for Test and Trace close contact tracing in the Autumn term. This will be taken over by the NHS Test and Trace service. Test and Trace will inform you if your child has been in close contact with a positive case and advise them to take a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. Your child will not need to self-isolate and can attend school as usual, unless the PCR test returns a positive result.

The school will continue to have a role in working with local health protection teams (HPTs) in the case of a local outbreak. If there is an outbreak in the school, the NHS will contact the school and a Director of Public Health could advise us to temporarily reintroduce control measures – we will inform you as soon as possible if this applies.

If your child receives a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result, they should self-isolate in line with the [stay-at-home guidance](#). They will also need to get a free PCR test to confirm if they have coronavirus. Whilst waiting for the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within two days of the positive LFD test and is negative, it overrides the LFD test result and your child can return to school as long as they have not experienced coronavirus symptoms for 48 hours prior to their return.

Under the new guidance, household members or close contacts of positive or symptomatic individuals **do not** need to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms or test positive if any of the following apply:

- They are fully vaccinated
- They are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- They have taken part in or are currently part of an approved vaccine trial
- Are not able to be vaccinated for medical reasons

As your child is under the age of 18 years and 6 months, they do not need to self-isolate unless they show symptoms. However, **anyone with symptoms must self-isolate** immediately. The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

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

"Be Kind, Work Hard, Love Learning"

Mixing

Your child no longer needs to adhere to social distancing rules in communal areas and classrooms. Pupils are again able to sit in groups in the classroom and at lunchtime.

Contingency plan

To prepare for the event that cases rise in the local area the school has created contingency plans. These plans include the possibility that it may become necessary to reintroduce longer staggered starts for pick up and drop off and reintroducing bubbles and social distancing for a temporary period in order to reduce mixing between groups. In the most extreme circumstances, should we return to a localised or national lockdown, the school has created plans to return to remote learning. All homework will be set on Google Classroom so that children are used to accessing this.

Cleaning and sanitary procedures

We have put in place, and are maintaining, an appropriate cleaning schedule. This includes the regular cleaning of areas and equipment with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.

Frequent and thorough hand washing continues to be encouraged. We are continuing to ensure that your child cleans their hands regularly with soap and water or hand sanitiser, as well as continuing to help those with complex needs to clean their hands properly.

Remote learning

We will ensure remote education plans are in place in the event your child has to self-isolate. While attendance is mandatory, high-quality remote learning will be provided for pupils who are following clinical or government guidance to stay at home, e.g. where they are self-isolating. All pupils who are not physically unwell will be given access to remote education as soon as reasonably practicable via Google classroom.

If you have any questions regarding the information outlined in this letter, please contact the school office who can clarify your query.

Yours sincerely



Gillian Jackson
Headteacher

"Be Kind, Work Hard, Love Learning"