

Radley CE Primary School & Foundation Stage Unit

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1st March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, welcome back for the half term, although somewhat blustery (to say the least) it was a lovely break and there was even a little bit of sunshine too! Thank you to those parents and staff members who helped move things around the school in preparation for the builders, it was very much appreciated!

As you know, the Government's announcement last week demonstrates an increasing confidence that the country is moving from a pandemic to living and dealing with Covid-19. Guidance for schools followed, and was further updated at the end of last week, which I have used to update our latest risk assessment and contingency plan and school protocol. The [guidance](#) for parents and carers has also been updated for your reference.

As scientists have acknowledged, the virus hasn't gone away and I want to reassure you that your child's safety has been at the forefront of our decision making throughout this situation and will continue to be our primary considerations going forwards, along with our duty of care to them, the staff, and the wider community. The school's guidance, and the 20+ documents that inform our update show a shift from the word **must** (legally binding) to the word **should** (strongly advised). Using that guidance, a number of operational changes in school will take place:

Attendance: staff and pupils

Attendance is mandatory for all and is a priority. Guidance indicates that people classed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) and those shielding family members (staff and children) must attend school.

No need for limited mixing or bubbles

Children are able to be grouped and mix freely, during the school day and at after school clubs. Staff will also be able to move between classes.

Classrooms and resources

Children will now be able to share school resources freely without having to disinfect or quarantine them before use.

School start and finish times

The school day will continue to start at 8.45am for Key Stage 2 when the children's door will be opened. At 8.50am the reception door will be open for KS1 children. The day will continue to end at 3:00pm for Windrush and Brook, and 3.10 for all other children.

The bike and scooter shed is currently out of action, until its replacement, please use the outside racks or park along the wall inside the gate. Helmets can be taken inside and hung on coat pegs. Breakfast club will continue to operate, please 'limbo' under the tape separating the playground from the side gate.

You do not need to wear face coverings around the school grounds, unless you choose to do so for personal reasons. We would appreciate it if you could wear a face covering when in the reception area due to the confined space and lack of ventilation.

Safe hygiene

Children will continue to sanitise their hands regularly throughout the day. Tissues and lidded bins are in each classroom so that children can 'catch it, bin it, kill it'. Please continue to encourage this at home.

Staff

Staff have been twice weekly testing since January 2021 as directed by the DfE but, moving forward, this has now stopped as the DfE has stopped sending LFD test kits into primary schools. They will test should they feel unwell, as a proactive measure if LFD tests continue to be readily available privately. Staff will not need to wear masks or visors in classrooms or corridors, but may choose to at other times, as a personal choice.

If your child is unwell

Please do not send your child to school if they have a temperature or are unwell at all. This is for the safety of everybody. If your child becomes ill whilst at school, you will be asked to collect them immediately. Please ensure that contact details are up to date with the office of another person who can collect your child.

If they display symptoms of COVID-19 they will be isolated until you arrive. You should then make arrangements for them to be tested, using a PCR or LFD. School should be informed of the result as soon as possible. A positive result will mean that the child will need to isolate for up to 10 days, following the latest NHS [guidance](#) and [Government self-isolation advice](#). Currently, if your child is unwell with other symptoms you can LFD test them and should this be positive you do not need to go for a PCR but may choose to. Your child should self-isolate in this case for up to 10 days, or in line with the guidance previously sent out.

Please note: OCC have advised us that we can refuse a pupil entry to school if they have a suspected case of COVID-19, if in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection.

Know the 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)

Other symptoms linked with COVID-19 include shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of appetite, muscle aches, sore throat, headache, stuffy or runny nose, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting. Any of these symptoms may also have another cause.

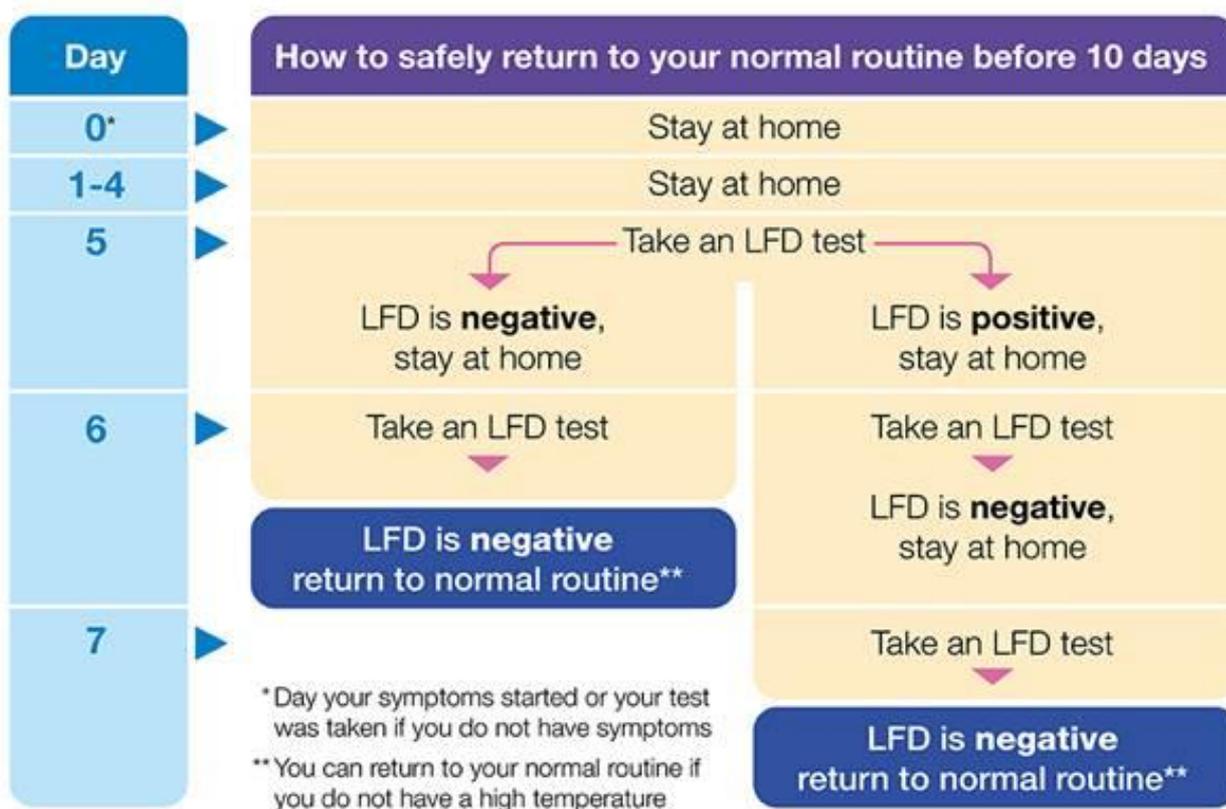
Isolation

The guidance indicates that whilst the law has changed, the directives for public safety remain. We will follow this guidance, so isolation continues to be up to 10 days, unless you have 2 negative tests on day 5 and 6, 24 hours apart. Isolation will finish after day 5 at the earliest if you test first thing in the morning on day 5 and 6.

'Children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting 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 test results are negative, they should return to their educational setting if they normally attend one, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature.'

Please continue to liaise with the school office about your child's return date after testing positive, given our school protocols. We will review this as and when the guidance is further updated.

It is very important that these isolation procedures are followed by staff and children so that the risk of transmission is kept to a minimum. We have been very fortunate not to have many serious cases amongst staff and children, however, some of our staff who have tested positive have experienced severe enough symptoms to be unable to work for at least a week. If we increase the risk of infection further by allowing children and staff into school whilst still possibly infectious, we increase the risk of further staff absences. The outcome could be not being able to teach classes or set remote learning effectively, cancellation of trips, clubs, residential etc as we would be unable to staff them.



Close contact changes

The new guidance has brought an end routine contact tracing. Close contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily LFD tests for 7 days. Staff, children and young people should attend their education settings as usual.

‘Children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who live with someone who has COVID-19 should continue to attend the setting as normal’.

Possible further disruption to schooling

It is almost guaranteed now that schools will remain open, but there is the very real chance that there may be further disruption to ‘schooling’ for individual children who need to isolate or are unwell. Please remember that remote learning will only be provided if your child tests positive for Covid-19 and is well enough to access work. If this is the case, please contact their teacher who will endeavour to provide this at the earliest opportunity.

Any moves to remote learning for full classes will be communicated if this is directed by Public Health, however I think this is very unlikely.

If cases rise across the school additional measures may need to be reintroduced to reduce transmission including face coverings during drop off and pick up, reduced mixing of classes, suspension of collective worship and after school clubs for example. If these measures are needed I will inform you as soon as possible.

We thank you, as always, for the support you have given us whilst on this journey. Again, I assure you that whatever happens and wherever this journey continues to take us, we will always have our whole school community's very best interest at heart.

As ever, if you have any questions about any of the above please contact me head.3238@radley-pri.oxon.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

Claire Thomas
Headteacher