

Dear Parents/Carers,

Covid 19 Contingency Plan Update

Following the **significant drop** in numbers in Covid cases in the school we have decided from Thursday 24th February 2022 (today) to no longer follow the School Contingency Outbreak plan but revert back to the risk assessments we followed in September 2021 , please see the risk assessment attached or on the website. Key changes are:

- Optional wearing of masks for adults in school
- Mixing of year group bubbles
- Volunteers return to school
- After school extra – curricular clubs to re-start (information will be sent)

The Government also announced its plan for **Living with Covid 19** on Monday 21st February and this has resulted in some changes in testing and reporting of Covid 19 as follows:

Changes to self-isolation and daily testing of close contacts

*From Thursday 24 February, the Government will remove the **legal** requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to **be advised** to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days. In addition, the Government will longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days, and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.*

Testing

As immunity levels are high, testing and isolation will play a less important role in preventing serious illness. Some changes to testing have already begun. In January, the recommendation for a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test following a positive LFD was changed, and the testing regime in adult social care was also changed to a LFD regime.

The Government will implement further changes to the availability of testing in the coming months.

From 21 February, the Government is removing the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic testing.

From 1 April, the Government will no longer provide free universal symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for the general public in England.

As the facility for testing still remains in place until April 1st we continue to recommend that the following procedures are followed if your child/care has any Covid symptoms:

- If your child has a temperature, a new persistent cough or loss of taste or smell, that you Government/NHS procedures and book a PCR test and your child isolates until result is back and this is reported to us.
- If your child is positive with Covid-19 then they would need to remain home for 5 full days
- If your child **does not** have any of these symptoms then they can attend school if well enough, even if another member of the family has Covid or another illness.

We realise that these guidelines from the Government may sound a little confusing so we hope that the summaries above some key recommendations above in order to keep both children and staff as safe as possible.

We will continue to update you if there cases in school or if there any significant changes to our current procedures.

Thank you for your support, we really hope we can embrace these changes so that like the Government suggest to 'Live with Covid' whilst most importantly remaining safe and well.

Kind Regards

Lynn Seal

Head Teacher

Kennington CE Academy

