

King Edwin Primary School

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30th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following the government's recent announcement and in response to contact from the Department for Education we will be making a few changes to our current mitigation procedures in school.

Firstly, all staff, visitors and professionals will need to wear a mask when they are in communal areas. Children will not be required to wear a mask at any point. Teachers will not be required to wear a mask while teaching. A number of other minor changes will be reintroduced in school.

Our children are comfortable with our measures so they shouldn't be overly concerned at all. Good hand hygiene and being aware of the symptoms of Covid is vital in reducing the transmission. As ever we ask parents for your support with these specific issues.

As in many other organisations, we do have staff member/s off with the virus and several children too. Please keep any unwell children at home and ensure that they are promptly tested. As advised, most of our measures apply only when indoors. Our playtimes, PE, lunch times and our outdoor Christmas event are all likely to remain as planned.

All measures are designed to limit any spread and offer our community a degree of cautious protection. Consequently, we hope to ensure that our children receive continuity and that we deliver our curriculum uninterrupted. It's far better that we remain perhaps a little cautious than to see larger swathes of children missing learning opportunities due to illness or isolation.

We would like to clarify the procedures in place if children are showing symptoms of COVID-19. The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature
 - a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
 - a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
- If children have any of these symptoms they should not attend school.

Any child who displays symptoms at school will be isolated and parents/carers will be asked to collect them. You should follow the instructions below if your child has symptoms.

What to do if your child has symptoms

If your child has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 they must get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if they have COVID-19 as soon as possible. Please note that if you, or your child, are displaying symptoms of COVID-19, you MUST book a PCR test.



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Rapid lateral flow tests help to find cases in people who may have no symptoms, but are still infectious and can give the virus to others. Lateral flow tests are not appropriate if your child has symptoms.

We ask that you help us to keep the school running as smoothly as possible, and follow the procedures to access a PCR test if your child has symptoms. Please inform the school office of your child's PCR test result immediately, whether this is negative or positive.

Unfortunately, we are facing yet more challenging times in the run up to Christmas and understandably people in our community may feel a range of emotions, whether it be worry and anxiety or frustration and anger. I must stress that no matter which viewpoint that you personally hold, our staff at school are doing their very best to manage the current situation.

Your support is very much needed and in turn you have our full support too. Please pick up the phone or drop us an email if you need to talk. We will try our best to listen and offer guidance or at least sign post you in the right direction if we can't help.

Thanks in advance for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Andy Callaghan – Wetton

Headteacher



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