



RICHARD WAKEFIELD C.E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

PRINCIPAL

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Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year to you all, I hope that you have all enjoyed spending time with your families over the Christmas holiday and have kept safe and well. I am so glad to welcome the children back to school for the start of another busy term.

I am sure that you are all aware of the rapid increase in Covid infection rates over the Christmas period; I wanted to update you as soon as possible about the government's response to the coronavirus outbreak and the instructions that we have been given by the Department for Education.

We have only made some slight changes to our procedures that we already have in place, we are fortunate that our split site buildings are ideal for keeping classes apart and since we have kept many of our safety measures in place for the Autumn term we feel well equipped as we start this term. Please bear in mind that we may need to increase our safety measures if there is a significant increase in the number of cases in school or if we are advised to do so by the local health and safety team.

Current routines and procedures

We are currently operating with two year groups within a large 'bubble'. EYFS is the only single year group in school. These groups share the same area of the playgrounds and do not mix with other year groups. We are now moving all of our assemblies remotely to ensure that mixing of classes is kept to a minimum.

Hand sanitiser is available in all of the classrooms and entrances to school for children to use when they enter and exit a room. All children are encouraged to wash their hands regularly throughout the day. Additional cleaning of all high touch points and all toilets at midday has been in place during the Autumn term and will continue into the Spring term.

We will continue to ventilate our classrooms to reduce the risk of Covid spreading by opening windows and keeping doors open. Please ensure that your child always has their jumper/cardigan with them to keep warm.

All of our staff are testing using LFD tests at least twice a week.

All adults are encouraged to social distance on the school premises. There is plenty of space for people for both the start and end of day routines. The fewer adults we have on site minimises risk to everyone so please encourage your child to walk into school independently if they are happy to do so. May we remind parents to avoid congregating at the corner of the Key Stage 1 building particularly during drop off. We realise that this is the optimum spot for watching your KS1 child



enter the school but this is a high traffic point on our premises; please do not wait in this area so as to allow all children and adults plenty of space to walk down the path.

We still request that masks are worn by parents when they come into the school office area. We would appreciate it if you could contact the office via telephone or email rather than coming in to school where possible. As always, staff will be available on the gates for quick messages and questions. Visitors into school will be kept to a minimum and any visitors into school will be asked to wear masks.

Clarification on the changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19 (information from the Government website)

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education or childcare setting from day 7.

Please note that some people will be required to isolate for 10 days, including adults who are not vaccinated.

Please support us by keeping your child off school if they have any symptoms until they have had the results back from a PCR test. If your child shows any symptoms in school, they will be sent home and a PCR test will be requested.

The guidance is constantly evolving and I will do my best to keep you up to date. Please bear with us, as experience has taught us that schools find out what is going on at the same time as you do.

Thank you very much for everything that you have done, and continue to do, to support your children and our school

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Lowe
Principal

