



Issue 6

Head's Update

Keeping you informed: Miss Kaur—Headteacher

Friday 25th February 2022

Dear parents/carers

Welcome back after the spring half term break. We trust you all found some time to unwind and relax. The new term has started well, and our South Enders are all back in full swing with their learning.

As I am sure that you are aware from the recent news, the Government has decided to scale down the plans that have been in place for the last two years to handle the Covid-19 pandemic, and are moving to a 'Living with Covid' approach. This will mean a number of changes in the way Covid will be managed in the future. Before outlining these, I would like to thank you for your patience, support and assistance over the past two years in helping the school run so smoothly under very trying circumstances for everyone.

Despite the message from Boris earlier in the week seemingly being that all restrictions are being lifted, this is not the case for schools, and a number of practices will continue.

Under new guidance, there is no requirement for staff to wear face coverings in and around school; however, this is up to the individual staff members to decide and I thank you in advance for respecting their decisions if they continue to choose to wear one. The requirement for staff and pupils to regularly test has ended and, as you will have seen in the news, the free availability of test kits is also coming to an end in April.

We ask all parents/carers to continue to follow the guidance below:

- Pupils who display COVID-19 symptoms should arrange for a PCR test and should not come into school unless they receive a negative result – i.e. continue to self-isolate until the result is received.
- Anyone with a positive Lateral Flow Test or PCR test is asked to self-isolate in line with advice: [COVID-19: people with COVID-19 and their contacts - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/announcements/2022-02-23-covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts)
- Pupils who become aware that they have been a close contact of someone outside their household can attend school as normal.
- Pupils who live in a household with someone who has tested positive can attend school and parents no longer need to inform the school about the positive household members. However, parents/carers are encouraged to carry out a Lateral Flow Test on their child daily for 7 days. This is not mandatory and pupils can attend school should no tests be available. We are advising this to ensure we are minimising transmission at all levels in order to further protect our community and limit any potential disruption.

There has also been an announcement about the availability of Covid vaccines for school-age pupils and, from the latest information, these will be available from April through pharmacies and surgeries for parents to book if they so wish. The decision regarding whether to accept the vaccination will be for parents and carers to decide, and we respectfully request that staff are not approached to discuss this.

Many thanks for your continued support during this turbulent period of time.

G Kaur
Headteacher