

James Elliman Academy

Dear Parents/Carers,

New Living with Covid measures following Government advice

We have been provided with New Guidance following an end to Covid related isolation:

- ❖ Free testing for the general public ends on 1 April as part of the Living with COVID plan which last month set out the government's strategy to live with and manage the virus.
- ❖ Thanks to the success of the vaccination programme and access to antivirals, alongside natural immunity and increased scientific and public understanding about how to manage risk, the population now has much stronger protection against COVID-19 than at any other point in the pandemic. This is enabling the country to begin to manage the virus like other respiratory infections.
- ❖ From 1 April, updated guidance will advise people with symptoms of a respiratory infection, including COVID-19, and a high temperature or who feel unwell, to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature.
- ❖ Advice will be provided for individuals who need to leave their home when they have symptoms or have tested positive, including avoiding close contact with people with a weakened immune system, wearing a face covering and avoiding crowded places.
- ❖ Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend. This will now come under normal sickness related absence.
- ❖ **For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days. We will be maintaining our procedures that if any child is showing symptoms we will be asking parents/carers to collect them and take them home until symptoms stop for a minimum of 3 days.** Parents will be asked not to send their symptomatic child into school and report absences by contacting the school as usual.
- ❖ **In order to continue to keep our families and staff safe, all visitors will still be required to wear a mask when entering the school building. We also continue to recommend ringing the school with queries to avoid crowding in the main reception area.**

When to wear a face covering:

- when you are coming into close contact with someone at higher risk of becoming seriously unwell from COVID-19 or other respiratory infections
- when COVID-19 rates are high and you will be in close contact with other people, such as in crowded and enclosed spaces
- when there are a lot of respiratory viruses circulating, such as in winter, and you will be in close contact with other people in crowded and enclosed spaces
- ❖ If you have symptoms or have a positive COVID-19 test result and you need to leave your home, wearing a well-fitting face covering or a face mask can help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory infections. See further advice in the guidance for people with symptoms of a respiratory infection or a positive test result.

- ❖ The government has retained the ability to enable a rapid testing response should it be needed, such as the emergence of a new variant of concern. This includes a stockpile of lateral flow tests and the ability to ramp up testing laboratories and delivery channels.
- ❖ **In addition, with the success of the soft start at the beginning of the school day. Parents and carers will continue to drop off children at the school gate between 8.35am – 8.55am. This initiative has resulted in us being able to develop the children’s independence, ensure all learning can commence by 9am and support our working parents/carers with managing drop off effectively.**
- ❖ The pandemic is not over and how the virus will develop over time remains uncertain. COVID still poses a real risk to many of us, particularly with case rates and hospitalisations on the rise. That is why it is sensible to wear a mask in enclosed spaces, keep indoor spaces ventilated and stay away from others if you have any symptoms of a respiratory illness, including COVID.
- ❖ Ventilation will continue to be considered alongside other control measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission within the school or in public indoor spaces. This includes the continuous enhanced cleaning measures, availability of hand sanitiser / cleaning wipes, PPE where required and continued promotion of the catch it, bin it, kill it approach to virus control. We also will ensure that hygiene is taught and promoted in classrooms on a regular basis.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support during the pandemic over the last 2 years. Through your commitment to following our safety measures, we have been able to keep our school community safe and well. We will together, move towards a more normal school life over the coming months. Please note that where appropriate, measures will be put in place to avoid overcrowding in indoor settings within the school site to avoid the risk of the spread of any viruses or infection.

I truly hope you have a good break and we look forward to seeing you all back on Tuesday 26th April 2022.

Thank you in advance for your continued support in keeping our staff and families safe.

Yours Sincerely,



Mrs T Johal
Principal