



MANOR HILL FIRST SCHOOL

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Manor Hill First School
Manor Rise, Walton, Stone
Staffordshire. ST15 0HY

Headteacher: Mrs J Roden

Inspired to learn, learning for life

2.3.2022

Dear Parent and Carers,

I hope that you all had an enjoyable half term break, it has been a pleasure to welcome the children back to school this week and we are looking forward to the term ahead.

As you will be aware, the Government announced last week an increasing confidence that the country is moving away from a 'full pandemic' towards 'living and dealing with COVID-19.

We have received guidance regarding the way in which we are expected to proceed as a school. Attendance is mandatory for all and it is a priority.

As the scientists acknowledge, the virus hasn't gone away, and I would like to reassure you that children's safety has been at the forefront of our decision making throughout this situation and will continue to be our primary considerations going forwards, along with our duty of care to them, the staff and the wider community.

The Government guidance for schools shows a shift from the word '**must**' (legally binding) to '**should**' (strongly advised).

If your child is unwell

Please do not send your child to school if they have a temperature or are unwell at all. This is for the safety of everybody. If your child becomes ill whilst at school, you will be asked to collect them immediately.

If they display symptoms of COVID-19 they will be isolated until you arrive. You should then make arrangements for them to be tested, using a PCR or LFT (lateral flow test). School should be informed of the result as soon as possible.

Currently, if your child is unwell with other symptoms, you can LFT test them and should this be positive you do not need to go for a PCR but may choose to. Your child should still self-isolate in this case. If the LFT is negative, we would ask that your child does not return until they are 'well'.

I will keep you informed of cases if they start to increase beyond a small number across the school.

Isolation

The guidance indicates that whilst the law has changed, the directives for public safety remain.

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We will follow this guidance, so isolation continues to be up to 10 days, unless you have 2 negative tests on day 5 and 6, 24 hours apart. Isolation will finish after day 5 at the earliest if you test first thing in the morning on day 5 and 6.

'Children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting while they are infectious. They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these test results are negative, they should return to their educational setting if they normally attend one, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature'.

Please continue to liaise with the school office about your child's return date after testing positive, given our school protocols. We will review this as and when the guidance is further updated. It is very important that these isolation procedures are followed by staff and children so that the risk of transmission is kept to a minimum.

We have been very fortunate not to have many serious cases amongst staff and children and we wish this to remain so.

If we increase the risk of infection further by allowing children and staff into school whilst still possibly infectious, we increase the risk of further staff absences. The outcome could be not being able to teach classes or set remote learning effectively, cancellation of trips, clubs, etc as we would be unable to staff them.

Close contact changes

The new guidance has brought an end routine contact tracing. Close contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily LFD tests for 7 days. Staff, children and young people should attend their education settings as usual.

'Children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who live with someone who has COVID-19 should continue to attend the setting as normal'.

Please remember that remote learning will only be provided if your child tests positive for Covid-19 and is well enough to access work. If this is the case, we will endeavour to provide this at the earliest opportunity.

Possible further disruption to schooling

It is almost guaranteed now that schools will remain open, but there is the very real chance that there may be further disruption to 'schooling' for individual children who need to isolate or are unwell.

If cases rise across the school, additional measures may need to be reintroduced to reduce transmission including face coverings. If these measures are needed, I will inform you as soon as possible. Our full risk assessment and guidelines are available on our school website.

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May I thank you for your continued support and understanding during this period and share my intention to reinstate the opportunities and experiences which were sorely missed during the last two years for our children and our Manor Hill family.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Roden
Headteacher

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