



27<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents/carers,

## COVID update – February 2022

As you will be aware, this week the Government published their updated guidance around the changes they are making to the law for COVID. There is no longer a legal requirement for people with coronavirus to self-isolate, however if you have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive test result, the public health advice is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

### Masks

Staff will no longer be required to wear them in communal spaces unless they choose to do so. From the end of this week, visitors and parents will no longer be required to wear masks indoors unless they choose to do so.

### Testing

The guidance changed on Monday afternoon, removing the recommendation for staff to routinely test. However, we will continue to recommend staff test at least once a week. Most of our staff (if not all) are keen to keep this for their own peace of mind – for as long as we can obtain test kits.

### Self-Isolation

From 24<sup>th</sup> February, the law changed and it is no longer a legal obligation to isolate. Instead, everyone should follow the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) advice. ***“If you have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive test result, public health advice is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.”***

Public health advice remains to isolate for five full days if an individual is showing symptoms. They should then have two negative tests before ending isolation after day 5 (testing on day 5 and day 6). There is therefore no expected change in the advice, just to the law enforcing that advice. Therefore, school policy will be in line with UKHSA advice.

For the time being, we will not change our existing procedure for children with COVID symptoms (high temperature, new continuous cough, change of taste/smell) or testing positive to remain at home for five full days. If you wish to return them sooner, you will need a symptomatic PCR (not Lateral Flow) to confirm it is not COVID. This is to ensure the continued safety of other pupils, staff and their families. If your child has no symptoms, but tests positive on a Lateral Flow test, we recommend they remain off school for five full days as well.

We will continue to provide remote learning for COVID absence periods, as we have done for your child to complete at home, if they are well enough to do so.

### Ventilation/Hygiene measures

We will continue to ventilate all spaces used by children and staff in school. Hygiene measures (hand washing and cleaning routines) will also remain in place. We will continue to monitor and report cases as required, and offer advice for families with positive cases.

### **Assembly**

We will resume face-to-face assemblies from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February.

I am so proud of the way our school community, children, staff and parents - but particularly the children – have navigated the difficulties and challenges of the last two years; especially the high levels of staff absence last half term! I'm confident that whatever comes next, we will continue to show our school values in all we do to get through it altogether.

Thank you for your understanding and support. As ever, if you have any specific concerns, please do get in touch.

With best wishes,

*Carly Wilkins*

Carly Wilkins  
Headteacher



**Respect, Resilience, Integrity, Tolerance, Responsibility, Excellence**

*Wellesley Park is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children and expects all staff to share this commitment.*