



Eltham Hill
SCHOOL

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3rd September 2021

Headteacher: Ms E Podmore

Dear Parents/carers,

I hope you have enjoyed the final few days of the Summer holiday and that your son/daughter has successfully completed their two negative lateral flow tests and is looking forward to coming back to school.

I wanted to write to you to update you on the plans we have made to ensure a safe return for all students next week and to advise you about how we will manage minimising the cases of Covid 19 in our school community going forward.

Home testing until the end of September 2021

As with all schools in England, now that the two lateral flow tests have been completed at school, students will continue to do home tests. These will be twice per week, using the kits provided by school. Current government guidance states that this will be reviewed at the end of September 2021. Please remind your child to complete the tests regularly.

NHS Test and Trace contact tracing for positive cases in schools

One of the key changes that took place with Step 4 of the national 'road map' from 19 July 2021 is that schools are no longer being asked to conduct routine contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will now identify close contacts and implement any next steps.

What you need to do if your child tests positive for COVID-19 or has symptoms:

1. Your child should self-isolate and you should immediately book a PCR test for them and other members of your household.
2. Follow the guidance from the NHS on whether or for how long other members of your household need to self-isolate. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>
3. Inform us at school the same day and let us know the results of the PCR test as soon as it comes through. NHS Track and Trace will advise you on next steps should the test be positive but if the test result is negative then your child can return to school.

If your child does test positive for COVID-19 we will phone to ask you about the children and adults they have had closest contact with at school. This is so that we can remind those contacts to take a lateral flow test daily for a week after. This will help us to prevent cases spreading in school and will happen in addition to the NHS Track and Trace process.

Covid Safety Measures

We have reviewed our Covid Risk Assessment in line with updated Government Guidance and with particular focus on ventilation and reducing the risk of any transmission of infection.





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Over the summer we updated our atrium ventilation system, this pulls fresh air through the building and out of the roof, ensuring we have a good supply of fresh air in the main building throughout the day. We also serviced and carried out repairs to all our classroom ventilation systems, windows and doors to ensure we can provide a constant supply of fresh air throughout our buildings.

We have continued with our increased cleaning schedule to ensure the school is cleaned throughout the day with high contact touch areas, such as door handles and toilet areas, cleaned constantly. At our last kitchen hygiene inspection in June we achieved the highest grade possible.

We are continuing to promote the "Catch it, Kill It, Bin it" approach to hygiene, reminding students to use a tissue when coughing and sneezing and to dispose of tissues in a hygienic way.

We will also continue to have additional safety measures in place in school;

- Hand sanitiser stations around the school building
- A one-way system in staircases and narrow corridors at change of lessons
- Split breaks and lunches to reduce over crowding
- Seats in classrooms will remain in rows
- Students and staff may continue to wear masks in public areas if they wish

We also have a Covid Contingency Plan in place, agreed in consultation with the NEU representatives in school, that details additional measures we will put in place should there be a spike in cases within school. We will keep you updated if there is a need to put these in place.

As always if you do have any questions or concerns then do not hesitate to contact us. We are hoping that this will be a much more 'normal' year for students with extra-curricular activities and visits going ahead as usual, assemblies in person and much greater opportunity for the mixing of students in different year groups. We are all very much looking forward to welcoming them all back!

Have a lovely weekend

Best wishes

Erika Podmore

Headteacher

