

Brookfield Community School

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1st April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Living with Covid-19

Following the announcement made by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on Tuesday, we wanted to outline the main changes and give details of how this will affect Brookfield Community School community with effect from 1st April 2022 as follows: -

- Free Covid-19 tests will no longer be available, other than for those in specific groups i.e. eligible patients and NHS staff. 1st April 2022 will therefore see the end to universal testing and we have been asked to not issue any further testing kits from this date.
- Regular asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended.
- Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature (usually considered to be 38 degrees and above) should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can return to school when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough to attend. There is now no recommended isolation period.

For further information: -

- Adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection and, who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with others until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature.
- Adults with a positive Covid-19 test result (those who are still receiving free testing kits due to being in the 'eligible patient' category) should try to stay at home and avoid contact with others for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For those under 18 testing positive for Covid-19 due to still being issued free testing kits, the advice will be 3 days.

We are informed that the population now has a much stronger protection against Covid-19 than at any other point in the pandemic. This means we can begin to manage the virus like other respiratory infections, 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.

I am sure you will agree that the past two years have been tough for everyone, but it is hoped that under this new guidance we will now be able to return to firm and stable routines without increased staff and student absence due to the need to isolate.

I wish to take the opportunity to once again thank the entire school community and parents for the support given over this period.

Yours faithfully

Mr K Hirst <u>Headteacher</u>