

## CULVERHILL SCHOOL "Inspire, Nurture, Thrive" (Specialist SEND College – Communication and Interaction)



Headteacher Miss S. Hewitt

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Dear Parents and Carers,

A very Happy New Year to you all and I hope that you have had a happy and healthy Christmas.

We are very much looking forward to seeing all the children as they return to school tomorrow and I wanted to share a few updates with you beforehand.

Currently our Operational Plan remains the same as last term (this can be found on our website) and we will be keeping this under review. In the last couple of days the government have issued some small additions to current Covid guidance for schools:

- Face Coverings: The government recommend that all pupils and adults in Year 7 and above should wear face coverings in classrooms/teaching rooms as well as communal indoor areas. The government will review this on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022 as part of their Plan B review. They have also stated that face coverings must be worn on school transport. There is no recommendation on the wearing of face coverings for primary aged pupils however, if you would like your child to wear one in the classroom and in communal areas we will support you in this choice.
- Self-Isolation: Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason. Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education or childcare setting from day 7. If one of those tests is positive or if anyone is unable to take LFD tests they will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.











Further information, including examples of when to end self-isolation if you have had COVID-19 symptoms, is available in the stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection.

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection.

As previously, we encourage you to test your child using an LFT before they return to school tomorrow. Please let us know the outcome of the test using the dedicated school email address testing@culverhillschool.org.uk – thank you.

**Additional information:** We are hoping to be able to get the children outside as much as possible this term, weather permitting. As it is very damp and muddy at the moment we would request if possible that your child brings in a spare pair of wellies or an old pair of shoes that can be worn outside please. This is to help reduce the amount of mud brought into the school building and in turn will help the cleaning team as they prioritise their infection control cleaning regime. Thank you for your support with this.

We will keep you updated with any changes to the operation of the school should they arise.

With very best wishes for now,

Sue

Sue Hewitt

Headteacher - Culverhill School









