

Willow Tree Community Primary School



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Headteacher: Dr Helen Davey

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know the Government has recently removed some of the covid restrictions nationally and I wanted to let you know how this fitted in with the guidance currently being given to schools around cases of Covid.

We have been strongly encouraged to continue with the practices of handwashing and ensuring rooms are well ventilated to try and prevent the spread of covid amongst staff and children.

The process when a child has covid symptoms has not changed at present. If your child has one of the main covid symptoms:

- a fever (temperature 37.8OC or higher),
- a new continuous cough,
- or a change to/loss of taste or smell

then they should seek a PCR test in the usual way and should not return to school until either they have a negative PCR or they have completed 10 days isolation. Similarly if they test positive on an LFT the same rules apply.

However, other commonly reported symptoms of recent variants include headache, sore throat, tiredness, and cold-like symptoms, so please be aware of these as well and stay at home and seek further testing if you are in any doubt.

You are still able to Test to Release from Day 5 and once they have two negative LFT tests 24 hours apart starting on Day 5, your child can return to school.

We will still contact parents if their children show any symptoms in school asking them to take them for a Test as we have done throughout the pandemic.

There is no longer a requirement to ask close contacts of covid cases to do LFT tests for 7 days but we will still send notification of a case in a class and it is then left to parents to do what they feel is best in terms of testing for their child.

This guidance is clearly laid out here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts>

and the section specific to children is as follows:

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 tests 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. They should follow the guidance for their educational setting.

Should we have an outbreak of covid at school then Public Health will issue specific advice and we may be asked to reintroduce measures such as class bubbles, close contact testing, adults masking around the site, etc.

Thank you as always for your support

Helen Davey