

East Hoathly CE Primary
School and Nursery
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Monday 19th July 2021

Dear East Hoathly Families,

Arrangements for September 2021

We are writing to update you on the timings and arrangements for the school from September 2021. These plans are provisional, assuming the government does not make any changes to their guidance for schools over the summer holidays. If they do, we will be in contact again before the beginning of the term to explain how the changes affect us. The guidance we refer to below can be found in full [here](#) and an updated risk assessment will be available on our school [website](#) before the beginning of the new term. The PDF documents attached to the email have been sent to us by the DfE and provide further FAQs and information about the following information.

One of the key changes that will take place from 19th July is that education and childcare settings will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case, or in the case of children – the parents, carers or guardian of the positive case to identify close contacts. NHS Test and Trace already manages the contact tracing process for the rest of society – including children who have recorded a positive PCR test – and has expertise in supporting people to identify close contacts.

This letter sets out in more detail below how that process will work and what you need to do if your child tests positive for COVID-19.

Self-isolating and taking a test

1. If your child has symptoms, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a PCR test for them. If the PCR result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, they, other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.
2. If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test (which should **only** be taken as part of routine testing and if they are **not displaying symptoms**), they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the confirmatory PCR test is positive (or is taken more than two days after the LFD), other



members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the LFD test.

3. PCR tests can be booked online through the NHS Test & Trace website or by calling 119.
4. PCR test results will be recorded with NHS Test and Trace automatically, but you should also communicate the result to the school setting during term time, or within 48 hours of attending school.

Contact tracing

5. If your child gets a positive PCR test result, NHS Test and Trace will contact you, using the details you registered when ordering the PCR test. You and/or your child will be asked a series of specific questions designed to identify who your child has been in close contact with. Being in a school with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact.
6. You will be asked to provide the contact details, if you know them, of any of the individuals – or their parents or guardians – who have been identified as close contacts. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch with these close contacts and provide appropriate instructions or advice (see below).

Self-isolation and/or testing of close contacts

7. At present, anyone identified as a close contact is legally required to self-isolate and must not attend their education or childcare setting (the only exception is if they are participating in a daily contact testing trial). Anyone identified as a non-household close contact by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of their most recent contact with that person. If they live in the same household, they must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of that person developing symptoms (see point 1 above) or, if that person was asymptomatic, the date of their test (see point 2 above). NHS Test and Trace will notify you of the day on which the self-isolation period ends.
8. Close contacts are also advised to take a PCR test. If the test result is negative, they must still complete the full self-isolation period, as the test will not detect all positive cases. If the result is positive, they will need to self-isolate for a further 10 days – and NHS Test and Trace will contact them to identify any close contacts.
9. **From 16th August**, if the close contact is under 18, they will not have to self-isolate (in line with the policy for fully vaccinated adults) but will be asked to take a PCR test immediately, other than for very young children identified as non-household contacts, and they will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test. If the PCR test is positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch to identify close contacts (see points 5 and 6 above). Further guidance on these changes to self-isolation will be provided by the government shortly.

The main school-based information for you to be aware of is as follows:

- From Friday 3rd September, we will no longer operate in set 'bubbles' of children.
- Both playground gates will open at 8:40am every morning and all children should come through these gates for a short playtime on the playground. Parents will be permitted to accompany children onto the playground. The bell will ring and the gate will be locked at 8:50am. Any children arriving after that should come through the School Office. **Please make a conscious effort to arrive on time – it has such a positive impact when the children to start the day with a calm routine with the rest of their class, rather than joining late and missing the morning work.**
- Pick up for all children will be 3:15pm from the playground – the gate will be opened at 3:10pm.

The arrangements for nursery are as follows:

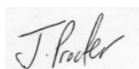
- Children will continue to be dropped off at the green nursery gate with a member of staff and walk up the ramp independently.
- Parents will continue to collect children from the green gate at the end of a session.

- Face coverings will not be worn except when necessary – e.g. crowded indoor spaces such as for school performances/special services.
- We will continue to:
 - Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
 - Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
 - Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
 - Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- The school and nursery will continue to be well-ventilated.
- Staff will continue to test twice-weekly until the end of September when the government are due to review this practice.

We are so looking forward to being able to get back to normal and enjoy spending time together as a school much more frequently. Thank you so much for your continued support over the last 18 months – we feel so blessed to be part of such a wonderfully kind and understanding community. We recognise just how difficult the past 18 months have been and the sacrifices that all families and schools have had to make. This has been an enormously challenging time for everyone and we would like to take the opportunity to thank you for everything you have done.

Wishing you and your families a brilliant and relaxing summer holidays, and we look forward to seeing you in September.

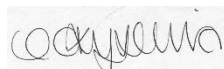
Yours sincerely,



Mr J Procter
Executive Headteacher



Mr A Brundle
Chair of Governors



Miss V Lewis
Head of School