

ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hartfield, East Sussex, TN7 4AA

Learning with Love, Strength and Faith, following the example of Jesus



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Thursday 2nd September 2021

Dear St Mary's Families,

Arrangements for September 2021

Welcome back! We hope you have all had a wonderful summer with your families and feel recharged ready for a new year. We are so looking forward to seeing you all and hoping for a much calmer and more settled year ahead.

This letter is just to confirm the arrangements which we sent out in July so you are aware of how the school will operate. The guidance we refer to below can be found in full [here](#) and an updated risk assessment is now available on our school [website](#). There is also a [contingency plan](#) which details what we will do if instructed to change our procedures.

One of the key changes that happened 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.

Below is the information you will need if your child tests positive for COVID-19.

Self-isolating and taking a test

1. If your child has symptoms, you should immediately order a PCR test for them. They must self-isolate until results of the PCR test are returned. If the PCR result is negative, they can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, they must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.
2. Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with confirmed or suspected COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:
 - they are fully vaccinated
 - they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
 - they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
 - they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
3. 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 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 can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). See above if the confirmatory PCR test is positive.
4. PCR tests can be booked online through the NHS Test & Trace website or by calling 119.
5. 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

6. 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.**



7. 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

1. As of 16th August, if a close contact is under 18 years old or has been double vaccinated for two weeks, they will not have to self-isolate 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).
2. Close contacts are also advised to take a PCR test. You do not need to self-isolate whilst waiting the result of a PCR test unless you have been instructed to do so by NHS Test and Trace.

Please note, we will no longer contact you if we have suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our school. NHS Test and Trace and the DfE will complete all contact tracing and we will only become involved under specific circumstances.

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.
- The top playground school gate will open at 8:40am every morning and all children should come through this gate for a short playtime on 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.
- Face coverings will not be worn except when necessary or if instructed to by the local authority or government – 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 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.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions and thank you for your support.


Yours sincerely,



Mr J Procter
Executive Headteacher



Mr A Brundle
Chair of Governors



Miss B Hare
Head of School