

Cottingham Church of England Primary School

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Tuesday 4th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

January 2022 Update

Happy New Year! I hope that you have all enjoyed the holiday and have been free of illness/infection. The staff and I are looking forward to the spring term and welcoming the children back tomorrow. I have sent this update to you at this time at the point that I was sure that no last-minute changes would be made by the government as with previous returns to school. Can you believe that it is a year ago when we all returned for just one day!! I really do hope that is not the case this year and we have an uninterrupted spring term.

The staff and I have been busy this week ensuring that the school is a safe and welcoming environment ready for the return of the children and staff. Each classroom has had a deep clean and they await the children to begin some super learning. Although we have not had to make too many changes to our routines/procedures, it remains important that we continue to take the necessary steps to reduce and mitigate any risks within our school of contacting and spreading the new variant.

We will continue to risk assess and refresh the system of controls to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19, in its newest variant form, at Cottingham C of E Primary School. I would ask that you all adhere to and continue to follow both our own and the latest government rules and procedures as you have done so in the past. After a few weeks, we will review any current routes/procedure depending on local infection rates. Hopefully no major changes to our routines will be necessary but we all now know that this could well be the case.

The information provided below is similar to what has been provided for our return to school previously. I hope that it will provide you with answers to some questions that you may have.

Attendance/Isolation/Close contacts

Our revised planning and risk assessing has all taken place to allow **all** children to return to school safely from Wednesday January 5th. It is expected that your child (Year R-6) will return to school unless they have a valid reason for not doing so. If any child (or adult) is displaying the symptoms of Covid-19, they must remain at home and isolate according to the latest government information.

Upon our return to school, we will continue to adhere to our normal attendance policy in line with Trust and Local Authority expectations that will include daily phone call checks etc. We would ask that you phone into school in the usual way if your child is unable to attend for whatever reason. As always, all holiday requests will be **unauthorised**.

The usual end of term attendance letters will once again be used as these will allow me to provide support and challenge if necessary. Please do not be alarmed if you receive a letter. I am always more than happy to discuss attendance with you. The staff and I will work and support you all to ensure that each and every child is in school where they should be and no doubt want to be.

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Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances. 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. If both these test results are negative, and individuals do not have a high temperature, self-isolation can end after the second negative test result and a return to the education setting from day 8. (The above also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion)

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 11 years, identified as a close contact, 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. Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are: fully vaccinated adults, people who have had 2 doses; all children (5-11 in our Trust) regardless of their vaccination status.

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.

If there is a confirmed positive case in a class, we will inform the parents of children in the class (5 – 11 years) that there has been a positive case in the child's class and that we strongly advise that a LFD test is administered every day for 7 days and that they continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms.

Hygiene/Cleaning/PPE

We continue to be mindful of our own self-hygiene with regards to the new Covid-19 variant. We will continue to promote and expect consistent, good hygiene practises from the staff and the children. We will also have high expectations of you at home with promoting good hygiene both before and after school. Children will continue to have access to tissues, anti-bac gel and promotional messages/reminders. As previously, children are welcome to bring in their own hand sanitiser if you feel it is necessary. The staff and I will constantly remind the children of our expectations and will expect all children to adhere to them with no exceptions. Children must wash their hands thoroughly before leaving the house.

A consistent and regular cleaning schedule remains in place and will continue to be so for the foreseeable future. The Government guidance is that staff do not need to wear PPE unless they are carrying out intimate care or cannot maintain social distancing for example. Children do not and will not be expected to wear any form of PPE.

- **Staff will wear face coverings throughout the day in communal areas. It is NOT expected that staff wear face coverings in class although they are free to do so if they so wish.**

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- **All parents/visitors, coming into the school via the front office are to wear a face covering unless medically exempt. Once in school, dependent upon the activity/space, a member of staff will instruct you as to whether a face covering can be removed.**
- **All visitors to the school will be via invite only.**

Uniform/PE kit/Resources

We continue to expect all children to wear school uniform as per our policy available on the school website via: http://www.cottinghamprimary.co.uk/Content/documents/policies/school_uniform_policy.pdf School PE kit for **all** children will be required and is to be worn all day on a PE day. PE will most certainly start from tomorrow as we are keen to get the children active as soon as possible. Please continue to support our uniform policy as you have always done so in the past. As always, please, please ensure that every item of uniform is clearly marked.

Learning/Curriculum

Once again, a full curriculum will be taught from day one and I know that our children will respond with enthusiasm in all subjects as they always do. You will have hopefully shared with them the termly planners and class news sent out last week. By sharing these, the children will have some knowledge of what they will be taught this term.

At the end of the last term, children were assessed in a number of subjects and gaps in learning have once again been looked at and will be addressed from next week. Staff will continue to use our very own adapted version of remote learning for children who are unable to attend due to Covid-19 and are well enough to access the work. Maths homework will be set via 'My Maths' and children are expected to complete the tasks set. You will have also received the termly spellings that we ask you to refer to at home.

Teams will continue to be used as a location to upload class work and other information that the children can access. Once available, please do encourage and assist your child with logging back into Teams. Tapestry will continue to be used in Ash/Willow class.

Classroom layout/Bubbles/Staggered timings

The current government guidance is that the children do not need be taught in class 'bubbles' unless where an 'outbreak' plan is put into place. For the foreseeable future, we will be returning to remote class based worship. If your child is due to receive an award, you will be sent a Zoom link to join in with our Friday celebration. We hope to return to whole school worship once we have a better understanding of current infection rates etc.

All children are to continue to enter and leave via The Mill Road gate which will be open from 8:45am with children expected to arrive by 8:55am. If arriving after the gate is locked, children must attend via the school office. Register will take place at 9:00am prompt. Please note that any regular lateness will be challenged and supported where necessary. Children in year 5/6 will again be allowed to leave their classrooms without the presence of an adult. If you would like your child to leave their class unaccompanied, please do provide written permission if you haven't already done so.

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We would ask that a face covering is worn, if you come onto the school grounds at drop off/collection. Any parents/carers dropping of children in Willow class are to wear a face covering please.

As always, I understand that you may well have a question regarding the information within this update. I would certainly welcome any questions as part of our commitment to **ENGAGE – CONSULT – DISCUSS**. Please email me, head@cottinghamprimary.co.uk with any questions and include January 4th in the subject field. If you are ever unsure about the latest isolation/close contacts information, do ask and I will be able to assist.

You will already be aware that we are a NUT/KIWI FREE school.

I look forward to seeing you all from Wednesday and look forward to welcoming some of you to our Friday worship via Zoom. Thanks again for you kind messages at the end of last term. On behalf of the staff, thank you also for the lovely gifts, cards and messages that you sent in. They all meant a lot!

Yours faithfully,

Ashley Scott (Headteacher)