



The Orchard Primary School
Nurture Learn Grow

4th March 2022

Dear Parents and carers

It is good to see that infection rates are falling in Hounslow. With the Prime Ministers announcements last week, I thought it would be useful to clarify our arrangements at school for the rest of this term.

Although the government has removed the legal requirement for adults or children to isolate they still advise that this is the best course of action if you develop symptoms or have a positive test result. They advise that those with Covid-19 should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then only return to work or school following 2 consecutive negative test results.

Close contacts are no longer required to do daily tests for 7 days if fully vaccinated. Those who are not vaccinated but are close contacts no longer need to isolate.

- We will continue to contact you if we feel your child is unwell and should not be at school but please remember to keep your child at home if they have symptoms of Covid-19. The symptoms to particularly look out for are:
 - **a high temperature,**
 - **a new continuous cough,**
 - **loss of sense of taste or smell**

We are aware that at this time of year, the children also suffer from coughs and colds but would currently still advise that you carry out a Covid-19 test if you feel unsure. Remember that even a faint line on a lateral flow test means the result is positive so your child should not come to school.

Please remember that if staff are ill, some children may not be able to come to school so please support us by keeping your children at home if they are unwell and ensuring that they are tested.

The government removed the guidance for twice weekly asymptomatic testing for staff in primary schools but we will be continuing with the practice until the end of this term and will then review whether we still consider this to be needed.

We still have a few positive cases of Covid-19 in school and so will continue to be very careful and conscientious in relation to the measures we have in place. We will do this to ensure we do all we can to prevent a rise in transmission rates in school.

We ask you to please be mindful of all the measures we have in place

- **Wear a mask / face covering** when you come onto the site.
- Please **arrive with only 1 parent / adult** to bring or collect the children.
- It is important that you **follow the one-way system** we have in place for those of you who come from Orchard Road. This system will continue when we no longer have mitigation measures in place as it is a much safer way for children and parents from Orchard Road to enter and leave the site.
- Follow the request not to cross the playground if you come from Cromwell Road - please say goodbye to your children at the barriers. This arrangement is also likely to continue when we no longer have mitigation measures in place.
- It is also very important to **remember social distancing** at all times.
- When you have dropped off or collected your children please **leave the site straight away** - do not wait in the playground to watch the children or chat with other parents. This prevents congestion in the playground which, again, reduces the risk of transmission.

Thank you to all parents who are ensuring their children arrive at school punctually every day. Please make sure your child arrives at school in time **to be in class by:**

- 8.55am if they are in Years 3-6 and
- 9.00am if they are in Years 1 or 2.
- **Reception children should be in class by 9.10am.**

Remember - It is **not acceptable to be late for school every day**. The gates will open at 8.45am and the children should go straight to class. Please **do not send them in earlier** than 8.45am as we have a brief staff meeting until this time or the teachers are setting up the classrooms so they are not able to supervise children who arrive too early.

Other reminders:

- Please **do not allow your child to ride bikes or scooters anywhere on the school site** at the beginning or end of the day.
- Please **do not allow your child to play on the play structures** in the playground.
- Please **do not allow your child to play on the Adobe** at the end of the field.

Thank you

Christine Haslam
Headteacher