

4th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year!



School will be open as usual tomorrow and we are very much looking forward to welcoming your child back to school at their usual drop-off time. We would encourage all parents/carers to send their child to school unless they are unwell or need to self-isolate in line with government guidance. Most of the staff team are currently well and have been back at work today.

As a nation, we seem to be in a stronger position now than we were this time last year and, at the same time, I recognise that Covid is still with us and continuing to impact our lives. I am sorry to hear that some of our children, parents and staff have been affected by Covid over the Christmas period and continue to be in isolation. We wish them all a speedy recovery. As a school, we will continue to follow government guidance and make decisions which we believe to be in the best interests of children, staff and the wider community. We very much appreciate your ongoing support in these matters.

Will the school stay open?

We are committed to keeping the school open wherever possible. Whilst we are realistic about the potential challenges we may face in relation to staff absence and limited supply cover, rest assured that we are very flexible and adaptable - we will do everything we can to ensure that as many children as possible continue to access face-to-face education. Should we need to move to remote education for some classes/year groups, this will not be a decision taken lightly and will be for as short a period as possible.

We will continue to inform parents/carers of positive cases in school. If a child or staff member tests positive for covid, we will continue to strongly advise their classmates and relevant colleagues to arrange a PCR test and take part in daily lateral flow testing for 7 days. This is because they would be a potential contact of a positive case. We appreciate your support in following this advice so we can help to reduce the spread of the virus and keep as many children in school as possible.

How will Meridian keep the school community as safe as possible?

In order to keep children, staff and the wider community as safe as possible, we will continue to follow government guidance and adhere to our risk assessment which includes the following:

- Staff will continue to take part in twice weekly lateral flow testing. We would encourage families to do the same wherever possible.
- All staff will continue to wear face coverings in communal areas and we appreciate parent/carer support in doing the same on the playground at drop-off and pick-up times.
- A one way system remains in place for families on the playground - please come in through the blue gate and out through the fire gates, leaving the playground as soon as your child is with a member of staff.
- Regular cleaning and thorough, frequent handwashing will continue.
- Classrooms will be well ventilated through open windows.
- Parents/carers will be asked to keep children at home if they are unwell and will be asked to collect children who become unwell with Covid symptoms whilst they are at school.

In addition, for the time being, children in different year groups will not routinely mix during the school day. They will learn, eat and play in their class groups with only minimal mixing of Nursery and Reception in the Early Years garden.

What should I do if my child has any of the three Covid symptoms, however mild?

- Children who have any one of the three [Main symptoms of coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS](#), however mild, should stay at home and arrange a PCR test. They should not come to school until they have received a negative result.
- If the PCR test is positive, the child should continue to self-isolate (**see updated guidance below**) and parents/carers should inform the school straight away by telephoning or emailing the school office - Tel: 020 8858 3572 sao@meridian.greenwich.sch.uk
- If your child is self-isolating but well enough to learn, we will upload remote learning to Google Classroom for them. If you need help accessing this, please contact the school office.

If my child tests positive for Covid, how long do they need to self-isolate for?

Over the Christmas holidays, there have been changes to the self-isolation period for people who test positive for Covid:

- The 10 day self-isolation period for people who test positive for Covid has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.
- Children may now take lateral flow 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 a child does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 7.
- Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.
- The isolation period includes the day a person's symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they do not have symptoms), and the next 10 full days.

What should I do if someone in my child's household tests positive for Covid or they are a contact of someone testing positive?

If someone in your child's household tests positive for Covid or they are a contact of someone testing positive, please arrange for them to take a PCR test and take part in daily lateral flow testing for 7 days. As long as they are well and have negative results, they can continue to attend school.

Thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any questions or concerns, as always, please do let us know.

With best wishes,
Jo
Jo Graham - Headteacher