

Thursday 9th September 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Current Covid Measures**

As we continue to live with the virus and respond to the easing of restrictions nationally, we continue to flex and adapt. This term, we are balancing the need to mitigate against risk with the need to ensure as much normality as possible for children in school. As such, and as promised in my letter last Friday, please find below some more information about what this currently looks like in school:

In line with new government guidance, the following control measures are still in place.

#### **1. Ensuring good hygiene for everyone**

- Children and staff will continue to wash their hands thoroughly as soon as they arrive at school and at regular times during the day. We have two sets of sinks in the school playground - this helps to ease congestion in the cloakrooms.
- Children should not bring their own hand sanitiser into school; we have plenty for each class if necessary and its use will be supervised.
- Hand creams can be sent into school with children whose hands are becoming dry but should not be shared with other children.
- Hand sanitiser for essential visitors is available at the school gate and in the school office.
- Staff will continue to model, teach and promote positive hygiene behaviours such as the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' approach and will supervise as much handwashing as possible.

#### **2. Maintaining appropriate cleaning routines**

- School continues to be cleaned every day with additional cleaning of frequently touched surfaces in shared areas in the middle of the school day.
- Lunch tables are cleaned between classes.
- Resources such as toys are cleaned more regularly. Some toys and resources which are hard to clean have been removed from the classroom.
- As far as possible, fixed play and PE equipment is cleaned after use.

#### **3. Keeping the school well-ventilated**

- Windows in all classrooms will continue to be kept open to improve ventilation. Parents/carers should bear this in mind when dressing their children.
- Some learning will take place outside when possible.
- For the time being, children will continue to take part in daily PE activity and one longer PE lesson per week - this will take place outside wherever possible. Children should therefore come to school in clothes (including suitable footwear) which allow for physical exercise each day.

#### **4. Continuing to follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid.**

- To keep all members of our school community safe, parents/carers should remain vigilant in identifying symptoms; self-isolate and book a test as necessary (more information can be found in the table below); engage in the NHS Test and Trace system.
- Staff will continue to take part in twice weekly lateral flow testing. Parents/carers and children can also access these free tests in a variety of ways, including collecting them from pharmacies.
- Parents/carers should continue to notify the school as soon as possible if their child tests positive for Covid. Whilst the NHS now has responsibility for contact tracing (rather than the school), we will continue to notify you of confirmed cases in school. Children will remain anonymous.
- If there were to be a rise in cases, we would act on the advice and guidance of public health and the DfE. This is likely to involve the strengthening of our control measures.

#### **Other measures**

- The Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG) have asked schools to maintain social distancing on the playground - thank you for continuing to follow the white dot system at drop-off and pick-up times and for arriving at your child's scheduled drop-off and pick-up times (so that the playground does not become overcrowded).
- Face coverings are not required for children and staff in school.
- All children should continue to bring a refillable water bottle into school. The playground drinking fountain will remain out of use.

#### **Some easing of Covid restrictions**

- We will gradually move to key stage play times with children mixing in the playground, as well as well-ventilated key stage assemblies inside school. (Foundation Stage is Nursery and Reception, Key Stage One is Years 1 and 2, and Key Stage 2 is Year 3-Year 6.)
- We will gradually move towards local trips.
- There will be no Play Club will and Breakfast Club bubbles, rather children will now play together.
- There is now more time for children to eat their lunches and, to allow for this, whilst children continue to eat with their classmates, there are more children in the hall at one time.
- Classrooms are now arranged more informally (most classes are not sitting in rows).
- Reading books will now travel as normal between home and school (class teachers will clarify arrangements in their curriculum newsletters home).
- From next week, Year 6 children will take on the responsibility of buddying new Reception children. This means that they will support them at lunchtimes (in the dining hall and outside). This is something that children and staff have really missed and which has always been very successful.

## New Covid guidance on self-isolation and testing

The guidance on contacts has changed - contacts of positive Covid cases no longer need to self isolate if they are double vaccinated or below 18 years and 6 months of age. However, in these circumstances, we would still expect parents/carers to arrange a PCR test for their child. This does not change the need for anyone showing symptoms or testing positive for Covid to self-isolate and stay at home. Children who show Covid symptoms in school will be looked after away from other children by a member of staff and parents/carers will be asked to collect them. More information on [When to self-isolate and what to do - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) can be found by following the blue link or reading the table below:

If this happens...	I should...
<p>My child shows one or more Covid symptom, however mild</p> <p><i>(a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste)</i></p> <p><a href="#">Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep my child at home (don't send them to school)</li> <li>• Arrange a PCR test for my child <a href="#">Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus (COVID-19)</a></li> <li>• Continue to keep my child at home whilst awaiting the test result</li> <li>• Let the school know the result as soon as possible by ringing 020 88583572 or emailing <a href="mailto:sao@meridian.greenwich.sch.uk">sao@meridian.greenwich.sch.uk</a></li> </ul>
<p>I've had a call from the school to say my child has shown Covid symptoms whilst at school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect my child as soon as possible</li> <li>• Arrange a PCR test for my child</li> <li>• Keep my child at home whilst awaiting the test result</li> </ul>
<p>My child tests positive for Covid</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep my child at home (don't send them to school)</li> <li>• Let the school know as soon as possible</li> <li>• Engage with NHS Test and Trace to identify close contacts and follow their instructions on self-isolation</li> </ul>
<p>Someone in my child's household tests positive for Covid</p> <p>I am informed by NHS Test and Trace that my child is a contact of a positive case</p> <p>Someone in my child's household shows Covid symptoms, however mild</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrange a PCR test for my child</li> <li>• Send my child to school but tell us what is happening</li> </ul>
<p>Someone in my household has travelled abroad</p>	<p>Follow the guidance outlined by the government <a href="#">Travel abroad from England during coronavirus (COVID-19)</a></p>

We will keep all measures under review. Thank you for your support in continuing to keep our school as safe as possible. If you have any questions about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Best wishes, Jo and Jane - Jo Graham, Headteacher, and Jane Sneddon, Deputy Headteacher