

Headteacher: **Mr A Herbert**

Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School
Eastholme Drive, Rawcliffe,
York YO30 5TA
T: 01904 806530
E: admin@cwr.pmat.academy
W: www.cwr.york.sch.uk

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4th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a happy 2022. We appreciate we will have families for whom Covid-19 has made this more difficult and for those affected, we hope your circumstances improve soon.

Prior to the start of term tomorrow we thought we would send out some reminders and information about what has changed in relation to the management of Covid-19.

You will be aware that there has been a large increase in community transmission of Covid-19 in the last fortnight. Whilst there are no major changes to school guidance generally, there are some in relation to isolation and testing processes. We must also continue to do everything we can to keep staff free of Covid19, well, and able to be in school. It would really support a positive start to our year, if you would please ensure that your child is fit and well before returning to school. Please consider giving your child(ren) (over 5) a Lateral Flow test either this evening or tomorrow morning, before returning to school.

We will continue to ensure there is adequate ventilation in school during the day and would remind you to ensure your child comes wrapped up warm, especially in colder weather.

Ongoing Control Measures

We are required to still operate under a risk assessment, which is revisited regularly and includes revised control measures:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone. We will sustain increased, regular hand washing and sanitising including on arrival at school.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes. We will sustain increased cleaning throughout the school day such as frequently touched surfaces.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated. We will keep windows open whilst also ensuring a comfortable working temperature.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19. The NHS Test & Trace service remains responsible for contact tracing where there is a positive case inside the setting.

Covid-19 Guidance for Close Contacts

As from pre-September 2021, schools no longer carry out contact tracing; this is completed by NHS Test and Trace only. Therefore, if your child is deemed to be a close contact, you will be contacted directly by them in the days following a confirmed positive PCR test. It is also important therefore to emphasise that if your child does test positive for Covid-19, you must inform NHS Test and Trace of the children your child has been in contact with at school.

Mask wearing

As an extra precaution, we are asking parents, where possible, to wear masks outside around the school site. Staff will also be required to wear masks in communal areas in school.

In order to protect staff we will be limiting access to the main office. Where possible please could you email or ring the office with any queries or outline your enquiry via the intercom system. All letters etc can be posted in the post-box in the foyer.

NEW Guidance for those Testing positive for Covid-19.

Since Wednesday 22nd December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test has been reduced to 7 days (in most circumstances). Individuals may now take Lateral Flow tests on day 6 (no earlier) and day 7 of their isolation period (minimum of 24 hrs apart, therefore both tests need to be taken prior to 8.30am on day 6 & 7). Please note that day 1 is the first day after either symptoms began or the test was taken (whichever occurred first). Those who receive two negative test results, on these specific days, are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation; so long as they do not have a high temperature, they are able to end the self-isolation after the second negative test result, with a return to education allowed from day 7 (after taking the second negative Lateral Flow test). This also applies to children under 5, with Lateral Flow testing at parental or guardian discretion. Please keep us updated with the test results from your child(ren)'s Lateral Flow tests (on day 6 & 7) via email. We are here to help; please do get in touch if you have any questions. (please click here for government guidance).

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/how-long-to-self-isolate/>

We are currently awaiting further information from the Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust and will send this out as soon as it becomes available.

Thank you all for your ongoing support.

Andy Herbert
Headteacher