



PARKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents

As of today, the guidance around Covid 19 has changed, as has the guidance for schools. The main changes for Primary Schools, in terms of public health advice, are limited and the public health guidance, despite it no longer being a legal requirement, remains the same.

If anyone has a positive test result or are showing the main symptoms of Covid, the public health advice is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. This applies to children as well as adults.

There are now three main symptoms of Covid (a new continuous cough, a high temperature and a loss of taste and smell) and ten additional symptoms (shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of appetite, muscle ache, sore throat, headache, stuffy or runny nose, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting) which are linked to covid but may also be linked to other illnesses, which are listed by public health.

Although the legal need to self-isolate has been lifted, the guidance around it, remains the same.

So now, to help parents, I would like to suggest that we all use our common sense and adjust in a sensible way.

- **If your child tests positive with Covid, or is showing the clear signs of symptoms, keep them at home until they are testing negative or symptoms have stopped. This will prevent it being spread in the school and other children or staff getting ill. This is the right thing to do by others.**
- **The School does have the right to send home symptomatic children and not accept children into school if they have tested positive or are clearly unwell, but I am certain that this would not be necessary and we can work with families to help and support and give sound advice.**
- **The self isolation timeframes are as they were before.**

Other changes are that staff are no longer advised to take asymptomatic tests. Though whilst we have them, we will advise staff to test if they feel poorly. We will also no longer be informing parents of cases in the school as close contacts.

The school will continue to follow public health advice in terms of managing the day to day running of the school and keeping children safe in school.

The legal requirements turning to public health guidance does make this confusing for schools and parents. We are being asked to do the right thing but told it is not a legal requirement. For now, for each other, let's follow the public health advice as well as we can and work together to keep as many people as well as we can, as we head towards the spring.

I have attached the public health guidance (issued today) at the end of this letter, in order to keep parents fully informed. The guidance will be the advice between now and April 1st 2022.

Mr A Moir
Headteacher

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts>