



31 October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

COVID Update

Before the half term break, we saw a significant increase of positive COVID cases across the school. Our priority is always the safety of our pupils, our staff and families at the heart of all decisions made.

We are now writing to ask for your support in implementing our COVID 19 mitigations in school and help us to minimise the spread of the virus where possible. A number of control measures have now been implemented and will be in place and reviewed weekly. Schools, Early Years and educational settings in BCP and Dorset have been given scope to enhance the measures they use to protect children and staff from COVID during the coming weeks. This has been done in consultation with Public Health Dorset.

Baseline measures have been in place since the start of term. These are:

- ✓ Increased daily cleaning of the site, especially around common touch points;
- ✓ Increased ventilation – doors and windows open;
- ✓ Regular hand sanitisation – we will strongly encourage pupils to use the readily available hand sanitisers around the site;
- ✓ Good respiratory hygiene - catch it, bin it, kill it;
- ✓ Regular asymptomatic testing for all staff
- ✓ Clear messages to not come to school with any COVID 19 symptoms (a high temperature; a new continuous cough and/or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste) but to get a PCR test instead.

We are also implementing the following controls with immediate effect. Please ensure that your child is prepared:

- ✓ Staff will wear face coverings in all communal areas and at pick up and drop off. Staff may choose to wear a mask when in classrooms.
- ✓ We ask that all adults wear a mask when on the school site. This includes coming into the school office and around the one-way system at pick up and drop off, unless exempt.
- ✓ Only essential visitors will be invited into school, by appointment only and authorised by the Head of School;
- ✓ As the weather turns colder, we recommend that students wear a base layer under their school shirts, so that ventilation can be continued;
- ✓ Students should continue to wear their PE kit to school in place of school uniform on days when they have PE
- ✓ All students will be proactively encouraged to hand sanitise often throughout the day;

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- ✓ School trips and fixtures – both home and away - will be risk assessed and reviewed weekly (there may be potential last-minute cancellations, please be prepared for this)
- ✓ Stopping all mixed year group activities including UBC;
- ✓ No face to face assemblies;
- ✓ Rota access to shared areas such as the library, on a year group by year group basis.
- ✓ Breaktimes and lunchtimes will run within a year group. Each year group will have a designated play zone. A rota will be devised for eating with a mix of eating in the hall and classroom. No more than one-year group in the hall at a time.
- ✓ AM and PM clubs will continue to run. We have considered closely the current risk as well as the impact on families if these should stop and that of your child's wellbeing as they have established themselves within these clubs. These will be risk assessed individually and extra measures put in place such as windows and doors are to remain open, increased hand sanitising, reduce sharing of resources and splitting the club into year groups to reduce mixing. We are aware some families may choose to not continue with these clubs over the coming weeks, we completely understand and support this. Please note we will hold your child's place within the club and you will not be charged. If you decide not to attend please do let the school office know.
- ✓ The school remains open and providing your child remains well, they can continue to attend school as normal. We will keep you informed should anything change.

All measures will be reviewed weekly by the Executive Headteacher and Head of School. We have carefully considered how we mitigate risk without causing additional disruption to your families as well as ensuring the wellbeing of our pupils. We will keep you informed of individual cases within your child's class or if they are identified as a close contact.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

- If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, you should organise for your child to be tested via the NHS online portal or by calling 119 and they should not return to school until the result of their test.

How can parents/carers help to support less infection in school?

- Encouraging higher participation in twice weekly LFT in secondary age pupils. This can make a huge difference and has in some cases identified 25-20 asymptomatic cases per school per week
- If a case arises in a primary or middle school setting and you are notified, parents can support safer return to school by using LFT on their asymptomatic children, which many have been doing/asking if they can do this.
- Support school by observing isolation and getting PCR tests when asked
- Adhering to new requests for mitigation and encouraging eligible family members to get vaccinated/boosters
- Observe close contact advice and do not send children to schools with symptoms of the virus.

Symptoms of COVID 19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or;
- high temperature and/or; and
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).
- For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

We will of course, speak to the pupils about the role that they play in helping to keep our whole school community safe and welcome your support with this in order to help prevent the spread of COVID 19.

If you have any concerns, questions or queries please contact the school via the main office 01202 694376 or office@broadstonefirst.poole.sch.uk

Yours sincerely



Dawn Wilks
Executive Headteacher



Rebecca Wood
Head of School