24th August 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Arrangements for September 2021

On Tuesday 6th July 2021, the Government announced that as part of Step 4 of the roadmap, from September 2021 it is proposing to reduce a number of Covid-19 restrictions, which have been in place in schools for the last 18 months. This decision has been made by the Government to reduce the disruption to children's education – particularly as the clinical risks to children from COVID-19 are low and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for 2 doses by September. The lifting of COVID-19 restrictions in school is in line with the proposed general removal of restrictions in England.

This move is welcomed by REAch2 and our school as the priority is to deliver face-to-face, high quality education for your children. However, we also recognise that it is important that the school continues to play its part in controlling the spread of the virus through protective measures. On the next page, you will find details of the COVID-19 measures which are being removed in September 2021 in schools and those which remain in place following the Department for Education published guidance.

COVID-19 Symptoms

Please note it is imperative that if your child has, or is showing symptoms of COVID-19;

- High temperature
- New, continuous cough
- Loss of, or change to, sense of smell or taste

they must not attend school and should remain at home in line with Stay at Home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection – Gov.uk. They should take a PCR test within 2 days and only return to school if the test result is negative. Parents should follow the NHS Test and Trace process. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, your child should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of a positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and your child can return to school, as long as they don't have COVID-19 symptoms.

Children who are identified as a close contact of someone who tests positive for COVID.

Under the previous arrangements, if a child was identified as a close contact of someone who tests positive for COVID they are required to self-isolate. However as of the **16th August**, children and those members of staff who are fully vaccinated will not be required to isolate if they are identified as a close contact. Instead, they will be advised to take a PCR test. They will not be required to isolate whilst they await the results of the PCR test.

Please note that self-isolation will continue for those who have tested positive for COVID or who display symptoms.

We know that everyone at Springhill, children, parents/ carers and staff have all worked tirelessly to ensure Covid-19 impacted us as minimally as possible over the past 18 months. We know that this will continue to be the case in September, and we are excited for the start of a new year.

Yours faithfully

Mrs N Silvester-Grant

Headteacher

Protection measures being removed in September 2021
Year group bubbles, social distancing and zoned areas
Staggered breaks/lunches will change to key stage breaks
Start and end of school will return to normal day structure with all year groups on the same dismissal times, but we will continue to use the drop off/ collection area for parents as this has worked well and provides everyone with more space. Nursery drop off – 8:30am Rec – Y6 below 8:35am – 8:45am relaxed drop off 3:15pm – collection for all All children will be dismissed from their usual gates with parents expected to follow the one-way system as this works well and causes far less congestion.
10 days isolation for close contacts of a confirmed case and adults who are fully vaccinated.
Wearing of face coverings in school premises
Restrictions on school trips (except international), drama, music, sporting activities and clubs
One-way system in school and designated toilets for year groups
Assemblies will resume

Protection measures in place in September 2021
School will continue to follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases
Good personal hygiene – regular hand washing/sanitising.
Good respiratory hygiene – 'catch it, bin it, kill it'
Ventilation of occupied rooms/assemblies
Regular cleaning regime
Positive cases or anyone with symptoms (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss/change to smell or taste) must not come to school and must self-isolate. Anyone in school with symptoms, will be sent home. A PCR test must be taken within 2 days. If the PCR test results in negative, the child/staff member can return to school. If the PCR test result is positive, they MUST self-isolate and follow NHS Test and Trace advice. *(If a parent/carers insists on a pupil attending school, leaders can take the decision to refuse the pupil, if in the leader's reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.).*
Close contacts will be identified by NHS Test and Trace not the school. Close contacts DO NOT need to self-isolate and can attend school but should take a PCR test.
School Contingency Plan for any outbreak.
Lateral flow home testing by all staff till the end of September (awaiting further DfE guidance)
Use of staff personal protective equipment (PPE) in school for anyone with symptoms.
Remote Education to be provided to all children self-isolating having tested positive. (*FSM will be provided to any child who is eligible for benefits-related free school meals and who is learning at home during term-time due to a positive test result).*
Continued focus on children's well-being
Isolation room for any child/adult with COVID-19 symptoms

Stepping Measures up or down
An outbreak management plan will be in place, outlining how the school will operate if there were a COVID-19 outbreak in the school or local area (Several confirmed cases within a 14 day period).
Leaders will call the dedicated advice service who will escalate the issue to the local health protection team where necessary and they will advise school leaders should there be any additional action required.