



Thursday 16th September

Dear parents and guardians

## Changes to the school risk assessment

I am writing to inform you that I have been instructed by the local authority to remove the enhanced protective measures Appledore School adopted because they do not comply with the Department for Education guidance.

In the event of a child testing positive for COVID 19, I remain permitted to inform you there has been a positive case in school and to ask you to remain vigilant. I am not permitted to specify which class the case was in or to identify children who have been in close contact with the positive case.

In the event of multiple cases we are required to seek and follow advice from the Department for Education and Public Health who may request that we adopt additional measures.

Please find attached the parent guide with the enhanced measures removed and the replacing measures highlighted.

Best wishes

*Jeremy Cooper*

Best wishes

## Jeremy Cooper

Headteacher

## Covid Questions and Answers

**National Guidance States:** People who have been fully vaccinated are no longer having to self-isolate if they are a contact of a positive case; those under 18 years of age also no longer need to self-isolate if they are a contact of a positive case.

At Appledore School we have conducted our own risk assessments and the following covid guidance needs to be followed. **Some of this guidance goes further than the national guidance**, notably regarding contacts of a positive case, to protect our pupils, families, and staff and is highlighted in yellow.

Please read this guide carefully.

### **If my child has symptoms, can they come to school?**

No. They should remain at home. The child with symptoms should get a PCR test. If positive, they will need to self-isolate for a full 10 days. If negative and they are well, they can then return to school.

### **If someone else in the household has symptoms, can my child come to school?**

Yes, the child can continue to attend school if they have no symptoms. The person with symptoms should get a PCR test and should self-isolate while they wait for the result.

### **If someone in the household tests positive, can my child come to school?**

Provided your child is not displaying symptoms of Covid, yes.

### **If my child is identified as a close contact from the community, can they come to school?**

Yes, if they do not have symptoms. The child should get a PCR test straight away. Although they can continue coming to school, parents may prefer to keep the child off until the PCR result comes back.

### **If someone in the class has symptoms, what happens?**

The child will be sent home and must get a PCR test and self-isolate while waiting for the results. The other children in the class will continue to attend school.

### **If someone in the class tests positive, what happens?**

The child will isolate. School will contact all parents and guardians to inform them of Covid cases in school and to remain vigilant for symptoms of Covid. The other children in the class will continue to attend school.

### **Does my child need to take regular lateral flow tests?**

No, this is not a requirement for Primary schools, however, if your families would like to do this then that is fine. We would encourage all adults to take regular (twice a week) lateral flow device tests to help identify early onset of covid.

### **What happens if lots of children at school tests positive?**

If this happens, we will involve our local health protection team and they will advise us if any additional action is required, such as implementing elements of our outbreak management plan. This may include wider testing or targeted closures of certain groups or classes.

### **What happens if the staff member tests positive?**

The staff member will self-isolate for 10 days. They children will either be taught by a cover member of staff or supply teacher; If the teacher is well enough, they may be able to teacher remotely into the classroom. If the teacher is unwell, they will not be teaching remotely and will be resting and recovering.

### **If a parent has been a close contact and is not required to self isolate (double vaccinated) can they still bring children to school?**

Yes, but we would ask that you take some additional precautions.

As well as getting a PCR test, we would ask that you: