



## Richmond Hill Primary Academy Voluntary Academy

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5<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to thank you all for your support this half term following the new guidelines issued to all schools at the beginning of the term for the management of Covid 19. Below please find a reminder of the Guidance, previously sent to parents on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

### **COVID-19 Clarification**

As a school, we continue to follow all the appropriate guidelines from Public Health England and the guidance issued by the Department of Education with regard to how educational settings should handle the current situation in regards to Covid 19.

For clarification, please note the following information:

#### **Attendance**

The Department for Education (DfE) has made it clear that all pupils are expected to attend school as usual. Please continue to report absence and inform us if your child is self-isolating because they are awaiting a PCR test. Given the disruption of the last 18 months, it is vital that all children attend school unless they are unwell, awaiting a PCR test, or are required to self-isolate.

#### **Close Contacts and Isolation**

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

***Since the guidance change in August close contacts in schools are now identified by NHS Test and Trace and advised to take a PCR, schools are no longer expected to undertake contact tracing.***

**We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.**

Children who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, **should continue to attend school**. However, children with any of the three main COVID-19 symptoms (high temperature, persistent cough, altered sense of smell or taste) must not attend school and should book a PCR test as soon as possible.

**We strongly urge parents and families to follow the guidance in order to protect themselves, and others. If you are required to self-isolate, please do not come to school.**

### **Face Coverings and Staggered Entry/Exits**

As a protective measure for our large school, Parents/carers should continue to wear a face covering at drop off/collection. Staggered entry/exits are also helping to reduce the number of people on the school site at one time, we thank you for your continued support.

### **Control Measures**

We are continuing to follow DfE guidance:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone – frequent and thorough hand cleaning will be maintained.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes – frequent cleaning will be maintained.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated – the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach will continue to be followed, along with opening external windows and doors.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19 – this will be adhered to at all times.

We would like to reassure you that we will continue to do everything we can to maintain your child’s health, wellbeing and access to high quality education. Whilst we cannot completely eradicate the risk of contracting COVID-19, we will do all we can to mitigate and protect your child while they are in school.

To read the latest Government Advice and Guidance for schools please use the links on our Coronavirus Information tab on our website.

Yours sincerely



Debbie Secker

Principal

*The Rose Learning Trust.*



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