



# Wheatcroft Primary School



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## Covid Update

Dear Parents & Carers,

We are now in a position to give you more information regarding the most recent updates around school protocols in relation to COVID-19. As we know, the Government's aim is to reduce the disruption to children's education and that schools' priority is to deliver face to face education for our children. Whilst NHS test and trace are taking more responsibility away from schools in regard to identifying close contacts, we hope that the following information will help us minimise the spread of the virus in our school community.

The guidance still remains the same around symptomatic children and they should remain at home and a PCR test booked if any of the following apply:

1. *a high temperature*
2. *a new continuous cough*
3. *a loss or change to sense of smell or taste*

Whilst awaiting the result of the test your child will need to stay at home. If the test is positive, your child will need to self-isolate for 10 days. The rest of the household, as close contacts, are recommended to take a PCR test, although they only need to isolate in the event of them returning a positive test result. Whilst your child is isolating we will continue to set work on Tapestry or Google Classroom for your child to complete if they are well enough. The other children in the class will continue to attend school. If the test is negative and your child is well, they can return to school. If your child develops any of these symptoms at school, we will notify you to collect your child and book a PCR test.

If your child tests positive, you should receive a call from NHS test and trace. Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace; education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. NHS test and trace will contact the school only if an individual has been identified by the parent as being a close contact. However, as a school we have decided that we will inform parents in classes where a positive case has been identified. If you receive communication of a positive case within your child's class, you do not need to take any immediate action other than to monitor your child for symptoms; the control measures already in place within our classes are there to help minimise the risk of transmission.

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*

*(Please remember it is advised for all members of the household to take a PCR test if someone in the household has tested positive)*

At Wheatcroft, we will be organising the children in phase groups for assemblies, lunch and play times until at least half term. We will also continue to encourage hand washing, ventilate all areas and regularly clean shared equipment. If we have a number of positive cases amongst pupils or staff, then we will review this alongside support from the COVID-19 response team and our outbreak management plan.

We ask that if your family is affected by COVID-19, please continue to update us about any symptoms, close contacts or positive cases. We also hope that if anyone in your family is affected by COVID-19 that they recover quickly.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,  
*Mrs D Miller*  
Head teacher