



Ravensthorpe Primary School,
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4th January 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

Update about Covid procedures

I'd like to wish all our families a very happy New Year. I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas holiday. As you will be aware, Covid has not gone away over the holiday and we still face different challenges in school to help keep children, staff and our school community as safe as possible. Though we are in a better position than this time last year (less people seriously ill with Covid in hospital, lots of people vaccinated, Omicron variant appears to lead to milder illness), positive cases are increasing rapidly across the country which will impact upon staffing levels in school and pupil attendance. Please read the answers to frequently asked questions below:

How are you keeping children safe in school?

We continue to follow Government and Local Authority guidance and our school risk assessment. Our risk assessment is regularly reviewed and the school will be checked for risks at the start of each day. We are very proud of how staff, parents and children worked together last term to keep our school and themselves safe. The next review of this guidance will be at the end of January. We will continue to:

- Keep classrooms ventilated
- Ensure hands are washed/ sanitized regularly each day
- Contact parents to collect children who display Covid symptoms at school
- Ask staff to keep a social distance from each other and wear face coverings in communal areas and at drop off/ pick up time. We ask that parents also wear a face covering at these times
- Organise lunch times so that children aren't mixing inside with children in other year groups (it's safer for children to mix and play with each other outside)
- Hold all assemblies and meetings on Microsoft Teams/ Zoom.
- School will be cleaned regularly

What if my child shows Covid symptoms?

If your child displays any of the symptoms below, you should book a PCR test and your child should isolate at home until the test result is known.

- A new continuous cough and/or temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).
- Additional symptoms that may be early warning signs of Covid-19 in children include upset stomach, headache, sore throat, unusual fatigue.

Please contact the school office as soon as possible if your child is taking a PCR test. Please see the **COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS/ CARERS chart** for information about suspected and confirmed cases of Covid. (Following a change in medical guidance, primary aged children between 5 and 11 years can now safely use Lateral Flow tests).

When should my child stop self isolating after testing positive?

NEW GUIDANCE...Your child can stop self-isolating after 7 days if he/she does a rapid lateral flow test on days 6 and 7 of the self-isolation period and:

- both tests are negative
- they did both tests at least 24 hours apart
- your child does not have a high temperature

If your child does a rapid lateral flow test on day 6 and test positive, wait 24 hours before they do the next test. We ask for a photo of the 2 negative tests prior to your child returning to school – thank you. The NHS advise that people who stop self-isolating after Day 7 take steps to reduce the chance of passing COVID-19 to others. This will be very hard for children to do back at school in the classroom, so you may wish to keep your child at home for the full 10 days.

What if someone in my child's class test positive?

If a child or staff member tests positive in your child's class, we will continue to email to inform you of this (without mentioning names) and advise that your child takes a daily Lateral Flow test for 7 days. If there are multiple positive cases in one class and it is deemed an outbreak, we will work with Public Health officials to devise a plan. Last term certain classes were 'ring fenced' to stop mixing with other classes/ year groups. If necessary, we may close a class with very high Covid cases and switch to remote learning for a short period of time.

What if my child's teacher or other staff in the classroom are ill and isolating?

We will do our best to cover staff absences with supply teachers and other appropriate school staff to keep classrooms open. If this becomes unmanageable, we will work with the Local Authority, PKAT and Public Health to create a plan. This may mean children having to work remotely at home for a short period of time if there aren't enough staff available.

What remote learning will be provided if my child does have to learn at home?

For children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, the teachers will provide work through Tapestry. For children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, work will be set by teachers on Google Classroom. Details of how to log in to Tapestry and to Google Classroom can be found on the school website. We do have a supply of laptops in school– please contact the school office about this support.

I do not want my child to go to school at the moment, can I keep them at home?

If your child is well then he/she must be in school or their absence will be recorded as 'unauthorised'. If persistent, this can lead to Local Authority fines. Please contact us to discuss your concerns and worries and we will work with you on this – we know it's still a very anxious time for many of our families.

We will communicate any updates and changes with all parents and carers as quickly as we can. Please continue to check your voicemails, emails and text messages for further information and don't forget to check the school website too. Please don't hesitate to phone the office if you have further questions.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes



M Fry
Executive Headteacher