

Dear All

As you are aware the Government rules and guidance has now changed. We have received the latest updates from the DFE and from Cheshire East about the local situation. **Please read carefully all the updates below.**

On Monday 21 February, the Prime Minister set out the next phase of the government's COVID-19 response '[Living with COVID-19](#)'. COVID-19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with and the Government are clear that it is imperative that we all reduce the disruption to children and young people's education remains.

Schools have been told they should continue to have control measures in place which ensure:

- Good hygiene
- Appropriate cleaning
- Well ventilated spaces

We have reviewed our Risk Assessment and current routines in light of the latest guidance.

The latest advice about Covid and what you should do if you have symptoms or you know you are a close contact can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts?utm_source=24%20February%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

However, this guidance now explains that the local situation is important, Cheshire East have issued the following to schools to share with parents/carers and staff.

Cheshire East Advice

Although the legal requirement to self-isolate has now ceased, the advice of Cheshire East Public Health is in line with the UKHSA guidance, recommending that all confirmed cases and those with symptoms stay at home until they are well, which may be up to 10 days. A PCR test should be taken to confirm COVID-19 if they have symptoms. They can return from 5 days after their isolation began if they are symptom free and have 2 negative lateral flow tests on consecutive days. Children who are well enough should have access to remote learning while they are not attending, for our school we deliver this via SeeSaw and guarantee it will be available from the second day of absence.

Children and young people who live with someone who has COVID-19 should continue to attend the setting as normal. If LFTs are available then these can be used as an additional measure while there is a positive case in the home. Testing kits can still be ordered from the NHS currently.

Adults who are household contacts of positive cases and any unvaccinated contacts of cases should carry out LFTs if possible while continuing to attend. Schools should risk assess any adult who is a household contact, considering the advice given in [People with COVID-19 and their contacts](#). Measures may then be required such as wearing a face covering or modifying their working to avoid contact with anyone at increased risk of serious illness.

Schools are asked to continue to report all cases to Cheshire East. We will then be advised of any additional testing or other actions which are recommended.

School - Positive case:

As a school we continue to advise adults and children who test positive to [stay at home](#) and avoid contact with other people. After 5 days, will still advise you to take a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) followed by another the next day - if both are negative, and you do not have a temperature, you can safely return to their normal routine. If not continue daily testing until 2 negative LFD tests are returned 24 hours apart or 10 days has passed.

- Please report all new confirmed cases to school via telephone or email the office@wybunburydelves.co.uk this is for children and household cases. Potential cases need to be reported too.
- School will encourage those testing positive for COVID-19 to inform their close contacts so that they can follow new guidance and be vigilant – contact tracing has now finished.
- School advises those who test positive should avoid contact with anyone in an at-risk group.

Please continue to be vigilant for potential symptoms, testing is still available until the end of March, both PCR and LFD tests can be obtained.

PCR: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

LFD tests: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

We will continue to report confirmed cases to Cheshire East and take their advice. If we develop a high number of cases, we will have to return to some of the Covid measures we had in place.

Testing - Cheshire East Return to School Advice

All staff and pupils age 5 and above were advised to take a lateral flow test before returning to school after half term and this advice remains. Please report to school using our form: <https://forms.gle/hSxsC94eC5fRFkNfA>

The reason for this advice is that the current rate of cases in Cheshire East, although significantly lower than in recent weeks, is still the highest in the area and is above the regional and national rate and so by identifying asymptomatic cases we can reduce the impact on staffing which has previously led to groups having to move to remote learning.

Schools Routines

We are now able to allow more wider mixing across school and we can therefore lift some of our routines. If we have a high number of cases this will be reviewed.

We will continue with our handwashing and sanitising routines, we ask that you continue to encourage this at home too. Classrooms will be ventilated at all times, this can mean they are colder on some days but we are heading towards the springtime so hopefully this will bring some sunshine and warmth to our days. Enhanced cleaning routines and additional sanitising of tables will continue to take place.

Our one way system is no longer in use outside, please be mindful of others walking towards you and you can still use the exit across the field if you so wish. The Bridge Street gate will reopen, we encourage everyone to walk up from the village as much as possible. If you can park in the village and walk up the hill, it greatly eases congestion around school.

All gates will be opened from 8.30am starting with the Bridge Street gate, then the top car park gates. Please do not queue down the carpark waiting for the gates to open, it creates queues onto the road which is dangerous. At the end of the day, we will open gates from 3.05pm onwards starting with the Bridge Street gate, all gates will then be locked from 3.35pm. We ask that those

of you accessing OOSC, continue to us the bottom field gate (by the bins) and close every time you use it.

Our drop off and pick up times will remain the same.

We will be keeping the wearing of PE kit on PE days, it allows for much more PE time and much less lost property!

Lunches will continue to be eaten in the classrooms, times will be staggered to allow collection of lunches and then staggered use of facilities to come back into school. However, there will be wider mixing of groups on the playground.

Worship will return to the hall each day as a whole school event. We will begin to invite parents back into school to share with us. Y5 and Y6 will lead an Easter service at church, due to Easter being at the end of our school holidays we will celebrate Easter on Friday 22nd April 9.30am at St. Chad's.

Y6 parents, we have arranged with Reverend Alison for the Leavers Service to take place at church on Friday 15th July 2pm – please put the date in your diaries.

We continue to ask that you only send into school what your child needs for the day – mainly their reading pack and their lunch. Our cloakrooms are small spaces and have not got the room for ruck sack bags. We ask that everyone continues to use the drawstring type bag – these fit easily onto the pegs or into the older children's space. WD ones are available from our uniform supplier. No toys or phones or digital devices should be brought into school by children. Anything which is brought into school, is at your own risk, if damaged or lost school do not take responsibility as we recommend items from home are not brought into school.

Adults no longer need to wear a face covering in and around school, unless you wish to continue to do so or are a household contact of a current case. This may be something we have to change if case numbers rise.

These last 2 years have been difficult, life has changed for us all, times have been tricky and hard but there have also been wonderful times of smiles and laughter. We wholeheartedly thank everyone for helping keep the community of Wybunbury Delves as safe and well as we can be.

As we enter the next phase of this pandemic and learn to live with covid, we ask that everyone continues to be vigilant to symptoms. Please be respectful of others, some people are vulnerable or are protecting vulnerable individuals and they may be more cautious than you as we enter these new times.

If your child is unwell, please do not send them into school. Covid is contagious but so are other illnesses such as sickness and diarrhoea; hand, foot and mouth; chicken pox etc. If your child has a temperature they should be at home until they are well enough to come into school. Sickness and diarrhoea still requires 48 hours away from school after the last bout. Please ensure your contact details are up to date, if your child is unwell or has an accident we need to make quick contact with family to ensure a speedy collection.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back into school on Monday 28th Februarys from 8.40am

Kind regards

Mrs Chesters and the WD team.