Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware, the Prime Minister announced plans for living with COVID-19 in England and I would like to make it clear how this relates to the school.

As we all aware, COVID-19 is still circulating and causing severe illness for a minority of our population. We still have a collective responsibility to work together to protect those most vulnerable whilst also protecting face-to face education for our children and young people.

The Local Education Authority have made it clear to schools to continue with control measures. These are:

* Ensuring good hygiene for everyone (hand hygiene & respiratory hygiene)
* Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes
* Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated
* Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

From 24 February 2022, the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test has been removed. However, the LA have stated that both adults and children who test positive are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 days. On the fifth and sixth day, if negative test results are returned, the individual can cease staying at home and return to normal activity (i.e., return to school). However, if they do not return negative test results on the 5th and 6th day, they should continue to stay at home until they have returned 2 negative results. Regardless of test results, they can return to school on the 11th day.

There is no requirement for any close contacts outside of the household to be advised to stay at home.

The routine wearing of face coverings in classrooms and communal areas is no longer required under normal circumstances. However, it is still strongly recommended that face coverings are worn on home to school and college transport.

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age. It continues to be a priority to ensure that as many children as possible are regularly attending school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Church

Headteacher