

# Cheswardine Primary and Nursery School

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs R Williams



*Reach for the Stars*

2.12.21

Dear Parent / Carer,

## Step Up Measures in School.

I would like to make you aware of additional interventions that have been put in place in response to meeting the DfE threshold for current cases of COVID-19 as outlined in the contingency framework. These short-term measures have been put in place based on a risk assessment worked through with our local COVID 19 protection cell from Public Health Shropshire.

Education settings are no longer required to identify close contacts of COVID-19 in their setting. If there is a confirmed case in the setting, you will receive a "warn and inform" letter to let you know that this is the case. Pupils who have mixed closely with the confirmed case e.g. same class / group of friends (if known) will be advised to have a PCR test if they have not already had one in the previous 4/5 days nor tested PCR positive in the previous 90 days. If there is a large outbreak the school will not be expected to notify you every time another confirmed case is reported. They will, however, provide general updates on the progress of the outbreak.

Temporary control measures have been put in place due to us meeting the DfE threshold of infection, these step up measures include the following actions:

- Reducing mixing between year groups / classes. 'Bubbles' have been reinstated especially for Class 1 / 2 and Class 3 with different play areas and separate eating arrangements over lunch.
- The introduction of face coverings in classrooms and communal areas for staff.
- The cancellation of large school gatherings e.g., assemblies, open evenings, scheduled sports events, school trips (awaiting decision) and school staff meetings. Where possible meetings will go online.
- Online learning is available for those children who are well enough but in isolation at home.
- The consideration of moving to on-line learning for a bubble or the school if case numbers are high and / if there are staffing issues again.
- Currently we will cancel the Monday's sports club although as dance club is primarily Class 3, this will go ahead.

In accordance with the DfE contingency framework Step up measures have been introduced for as short a period as possible to be effective and will be reviewed every 14 days to determine whether or not they are still required or can be stepped down. Our full review is scheduled for Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December, although if cases decline by the middle of next week (8<sup>th</sup> December) some step up measures may change.

We already have an enhanced cleaning programme of touch points and toilets throughout the day and this will continue with increased ventilation across the school as well.

Parents can support school by carrying out regular testing and responding to our requests for any child to get a PCR



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promptly. Household contacts of a positive case should stay at home until a negative PCR is obtained. Close contacts can come into school if they display no symptoms whilst awaiting the results of the PCR. Both should book and have a second PCR test 4/5 days after the first, unless the first is positive and they have to isolate.

If your child displays any of the three main symptoms of COVID-19

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss or change to your sense of taste / smell

They must isolate and get a PCR test as soon as possible, anyone in school displaying these symptoms will be sent home.

It is also recommended that they have a further PCR 4 or 5 days after the first PCR. The PCR should not be repeated at less frequent intervals, and anyone who has had a positive PCR in the past 90 days should not be retested unless they have new symptoms.

Those infected with the current main COVID-19 variant, especially children, do not always show the typical COVID symptoms listed above. Anyone with any of the following precautionary symptoms associated with COVID-19 are recommended to have a PCR test.

Precautionary symptoms may include:

- Headaches
- Aches & pains
- Feeling tired without any good reason
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Tummy ache in children

These symptoms can be experienced by someone with a different illness other than COVID-19, and you should consider contacting 111 for medical advice if required.

Twice weekly LFT testing of all pupils from 11 years of age and upwards and staff in all education settings is recommended, unless the person has symptoms of COVID-19 / has tested PCR positive in the past 90 days. Public Health has requested that all households carry this testing out twice weekly as well.

**Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should have a PCR test and not an LFT test.**

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

*REWilliams*

Rachael Williams (Executive Headteacher)



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