

PORTISHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Learning and achieving together

1st April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Covid 19 Update

Thank you once again for all of your support for the school and the time you commit to the education of your children. Learning is very much a partnership and we really value the effort you put in education in school and at home. I can assure you that it makes a big difference.

I am sure that many of you will be aware of the changing measures and guidance announced earlier in the week so we wanted to share those with you today before the Trust risk assessments are updated, which will take some time.

Changes to measures and guidance for managing COVID-19 in education and childcare settings from Friday 1 April

Free COVID-19 tests will continue to be available for specific groups, including eligible patients and NHS staff, once the universal testing offer ends on Friday 1 April.

On Tuesday 29 March, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Sajid Javid, set out the [next steps for living with COVID-19](#) in England from Friday 1 April.

Updated guidance advises:

- adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature
- children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. **They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend**
- **adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days**

We appreciate the good will and support of the whole community in following published guidance to keep each other safe and avoid unnecessary disruption. We recognise that there will be a range of views on the new guidance. This is the direction from the DFE and we know that we can trust on you to support this new policy direction.

Anyone who tested positive this week can follow the final bullet point in the new guidance above and return to school if well enough at the end of the 3/5 days (children/adults).

Vaccinations for 5-11 Year Olds

The DFE have asked that schools signpost you to the information regarding vaccination for 5 to 11 year olds. This is DFE policy and the school respects that our school community will have a range of views on this. **Please direct any feedback you may have on the vaccination programme to the appropriate authority and not the school or Trust.**

“Healthy 5 to 11 year olds will be offered the COVID-19 vaccine from the beginning of April. Vaccinations will take place outside of school, in vaccination centres, pharmacies, GP surgeries and walk-in centres. Parents of 5 to 11 year olds will receive a letter from the NHS with further information on the vaccine.

For 5 to 11 year old and 12 to 15 year old vaccinations, please signpost parents to where they can [book COVID-19 vaccination appointments online](#), at a vaccination centre or pharmacy, or [find a walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site](#) without needing an appointment. Appointments and walk-ins can be will open up for 5 to 11 year olds from the beginning of April.”

Moving Forward

Continuing to follow good health and hygiene continues to be our best defence against Covid 19 as it is with all respiratory illnesses. We will continue with hand washing, ventilation, sniffle stations and additional cleaning until further notice.

Our risk assessments will be updated ready for Term 5 and we will update you further when this work has been done with the Trust.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards

Richard Riordan
Headteacher
Portishead Primary School