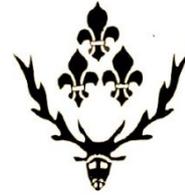


Giffards Primary School

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'Valuing Everyone As Learners'

23/2/2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Government has set out the next phase of its COVID-19 response ['Living with Covid - 19'](#).

From Monday 21st February, the Government has removed the guidance for staff and students to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing. Their reason for this is that the risk of severe illness from COVID-19 in most children and most fully vaccinated adults is very low. From Thursday 24th February, the Government will remove the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. However, adults and children who test positive are still advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least five full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received two negative test results on consecutive days. At Giffards this now means:

- Staff and students are not required to test twice weekly. You can continue to do so if you choose - however, the school will no longer have testing kits routinely available for this purpose.
- If staff or students have COVID-19 symptoms (as defined by the NHS) they should still use an LFT to check/take a PCR test and **stay at home** and follow Government guidance if positive. People who test positive should stay at home for five full days and then receive two negative Lateral Flow Test results on consecutive days before returning to school. Test kits can be requested from [Order coronavirus rapid lateral flow tests](#). We ask you to do this, even though it is not a legal requirement, in order to protect others in school who are vulnerable and reduce a potential infection spread that would affect attendance and lost learning.

As we currently do with sickness infections, we will refuse staff and students with COVID-19 symptoms from attending to protect others until a negative PCR test has been carried out.

- Remote learning via chrome books/live lessons will still be available with immediate effect for pupils who need to isolate.
- There is no requirement for any staff or students to self-isolate if they are close contacts with positive cases.

We will continue to monitor the situation in school as we do now and will send out 'Groupcall' messages should we become aware of cases within a year group.

We will continue to keep in place all other measures in the school to reduce the spread of infection for the time being.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs N Haslam-Davis

Giffards Primary School is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 8920008
The registered office is at Queen Elizabeth Drive, Corringham, Essex, SS17 7TG

