



## Georgian Gardens CP School

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Head Teacher: Miss A Bowers

2.1.2022

Dear Families,

I hope that you have all had a good break over Christmas and New Year. We are looking forward to welcoming back all of our pupils for the Spring Term on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January. If your child currently has Covid please ensure that you have let us know via our office email. [office@georgiangardens.w-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@georgiangardens.w-sussex.sch.uk).

We have lots of exciting learning and experiences planned for the term and can't wait to see everyone!

Lots of new guidelines have been released over the weekend so this is an important update letter for all parents and carers.

**New guidelines recommend that all pupils & staff take an LFT test on the evening or morning that they return to school \*.**

Whilst this is at parental discretion we recognise that this will significantly reduce the risk of Covid being brought into the school. Staff will continue to take their twice weekly LFT tests and we would encourage parents who are willing for their children to take LFTs to do the same. I am sure you will be aware of the current shortages of LFT tests, but these are available through local pharmacies and can be ordered on line. If you are unable to obtain an LFT test your child should still return to school.

*\*This advice now also applies to those who have tested positive in the last 90 days, but have finished their isolation period.*

### Attendance

Please note that attendance in school is a legal requirement, unless of course your child is ill. All pupils should be returning to school. I would like to outline the measures that we have in place to help keep our school community safe:



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- **Face masks:** All parents who are able are asked to wear face masks during drop off and pick up times. Staff will wear them in all communal areas and have discretion to wear them in the classroom if they wish. All visitors to the school are required to wear masks inside the building unless they are medically exempt.
- **Bubble systems:** whilst this is not currently a statutory requirement, at Georgian Gardens we will have the following in place:
  - Class bubbles – we will be continuing to use our bubbles system to minimise mixing between the pupils.
  - Outdoor playtimes will be with own year group.
  - Clubs will continue to go ahead with mixed year groups at this time, we are able to easily track and trace these through our register systems.
  - Children who eat in the hall are seated with children from their own year.
  - Staff may go into different bubbles, but mixing between children is minimised.
  - Assemblies will be remote for the first few weeks of term.
  - Staff meetings will be remote for the first few weeks of term.
- **Ventilation:** We will continue to ensure that our classrooms are well ventilated. All classrooms now have a CO2 monitor which allows us to monitor ventilation levels. Children can continue to wear more than one layer of school uniform if they wish.
- **Hand Hygiene:** All pupils wash their hands on entry and exit to the classroom. We will be reminding pupils about 'catch it, bin it, kill it' on their return. Making sure your child has a tissue in their pocket is really helpful.
- **Additional cleaning:** We continue to employ additional cleaners at lunch time to ensure that all touch points and toilets are cleaned during the day.

**Staffing:** I am sure you are aware from the media that schools are having increasing difficulty with finding cover staff for classes in the case of staff absence. We have now been given more flexibility to utilise other staff in school (such as Teaching Assistants) to cover classes in the short term if the need arises.

**Remote Learning:** If your child is absent through Covid, but is well enough to access learning then this is available through Tapestry for Early Years pupils and Seesaw for all other pupils in school. It is an expectation that this work is accessed and completed if your child is well enough to do so. We are trying our best to ensure that pupils are catching up with missed learning and this will further support this endeavour.



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**Do not send your child to school if you think they have symptoms:** If your child is in school and we believe they are showing possible symptoms of Covid, you will be asked to collect them. I know this can be a frustration to parents, but we are following strict guidelines and do not make the decision to make a 'collection call' lightly. Please continue to be understanding and kind to staff who are doing their best to keep school safe.

**You should also be aware of the following guidelines which have been sent to schools today:**

### **Information on the changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19**

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation. Further information is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

### **Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19**

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).



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Thank you for your continued support during these unpredictable times.

Kind Regards

A E Bowers

Miss Bowers

Headteacher



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