

At Fairstead Community Primary and Nursery School, we nurture and invest in our relationships. We identify each individual's potential and work as a team to create a safe environment for everyone to grow and succeed.

07/01/2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all. I hope some time was spent relaxing over the Christmas period. It continues to be an anxious time for the whole country but I am sure we will continue working together to support each other in maintaining the effective education of our children.

It was good to see staff back in school yesterday. We reviewed our wellbeing culture, received training on support strategies for children with Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) difficulties, implemented a new spelling programme and organised resources for the coming term.

As you might expect, there was also a discussion about Covid and the impact of the ever changing national guidance upon our practice.

The schools risk assessment has been updated which can be found on our school website:

<https://www.fairsteadprimaryschool.co.uk/?s=risk+assessment>. In summary there are 6 key areas for the control of the infection:



Maximising Fresh Air

Adequate ventilation reduces how much virus is in the air by helping to reduce the risk from aerosol transmission (when someone breathes in small particles (aerosols) that can be in the air after a person with the virus has been in the same area). Airborne transmission is considered to be a significant transmission route for COVID-19. It is possible to be infected by someone you do not have close contact with, particularly in highly populated or poorly ventilated areas. Therefore, we ask you to make sure that your child **arrives for the day in a school jumper/cardigan** as the classrooms will remain ventilated where temperature allows.

Testing and Isolation

There have been many changes to testing and isolation over the last few weeks so I have tried to summarise the main points for you below:

Be Safe



Be Respectful



Be a Learner



Be Responsible



- Regular Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing is for children aged 11+ (High Schools).
- Daily LFD testing for 7 days in KS2 can happen if close contact with a confirmed positive case has been identified.
- If symptomatic get a PCR test
- Regular testing is not recommended for under 5's but a PCR can be completed if close contact with a positive case has been identified
- Confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result are to be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.
- If isolating with a positive test and are asymptomatic but then develop symptoms the period of isolation resets itself
- The self-isolation advice for people with coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed. It is now possible to end self-isolation after 7 days, following 2 negative LFD tests taken 24 hours apart. The first LFD test should not be taken before the sixth day. This does not apply if you are still displaying symptoms on day 6.

Arriving at school

Whilst school bubbles and social distancing (keeping 2m from others) is no longer a requirement, any measure that minimises the number, proximity and duration of in person contacts reduces the risk of transmission. In addition, it is important to consider that increased mixing will lead to increased cases. Therefore, please try to keep a respectful space between yourselves and others.

This also applies at the school office where we continue to operate one person at a time into this space and request that a mask is worn.

Disruption

We will do everything we can to keep our classes open however there is the potential for disruption if staffing numbers decline due to positive cases. This has the potential to change the school day for a short period of time e.g.:

- Breakfast club may close
- After school clubs may be cancelled
- Classes could be closed

We will always try to give as much notice as possible but please be patient with us as last minute decisions may have to be made.

In the event of a class closure, remote learning will take place which will follow our previous policy which can also be found on our school website.

Your class teachers will be sending out a newsletter in the coming week, which will detail any relevant information for the term ahead and let you know about all the exciting things your children will be learning during this term.

Thank you for your continued support

Daniel Farthing

Head Teacher

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