



St. Matthew's C.E. Primary School
Drift Road, Blackmoor, Liss, Hampshire, GU33 6BN
Telephone: Bordon (01420) 472844 Fax: Bordon (01420) 479334
Email: adminoffice@st-matthews.hants.sch.uk



Headteacher: Mrs Kay Pennicotte-Henrie

5th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you had a lovely Christmas and that 2022 will be a great year for all of us.

During the Christmas break, there have been some changes to guidance and expectations issued by the Government. I have reiterated a few points and summarised the key changes we have made as a result of the guidance and increased infection rates. We will review this following the Government review on 26th January. As always, our priority is the safety of our children and staff. By keeping safe, this ensures that as many children as possible continue their education on site with face to face learning.

Visitors to School

We are limiting the number of visitors to school and not allowing parents to enter the school reception area. Any forms can be placed in your child's book bag and staff are outside on the gates if you need to speak to anyone urgently or hand over any forgotten items. Please use the blue Home Partnership books for communication with Class teachers or phone the office should you have any queries. All visitors will be requested to take a Lateral Flow Test (LFD) and prove a negative result prior to attending the school site; they will be asked to wash their hands on entering the school and wear face masks for the duration of their stay.

Staffing

All staff are testing at least twice weekly and wearing masks in all communal areas.

Drop off and Collection of Children

Key Stage 2 children to be dropped off at pavement entrance between 8.30 am and 8.45 am. Key Stage 1 children to be dropped off at playground entrance between 8.45 am and 9.00 am. Only Rainbow parents to bring children round to the classroom.

Classroom Routines

All classrooms will be well-ventilated and handwashing regimes in class will continue on entering, after activities and before eating. Each classroom has been fitted with a CO2 monitor provided by the Government.

Respect, Faith, Friendship, Achievement



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Clarification 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.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Household contacts who are not required to self-isolate

If you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 you are at significantly higher risk of becoming infected yourself.

If you are aged 5 years and over and live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, and are not legally required to self-isolate, you are strongly advised to:

- take an LFD test every day for 7 days, or until 10 days after the household member who has COVID-19 started their self-isolation period if this is earlier
- take this daily LFD test before you leave your home for the first time that day

Report your LFD test results after taking each test.

If you take an LFD test and the result is positive, you should immediately self-isolate to prevent you from passing the infection on to other people. You should arrange to have a PCR test. If this PCR test result is positive, you must self-isolate and follow the advice for people who have COVID-19. If this PCR test result is negative, you can stop self-isolating, but you should continue to take your daily LFD tests.

Thank you for your continued support. Among our children, we have had relatively low levels of infection throughout the pandemic and we hope that by working together this will continue to be the case. Please stay safe and we wish you all a healthy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Pennicotte-Henrie
Headteacher

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