

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have all had a good week. I am writing to explain the changes we are making in school to take account of the updated national COVID-19 guidance and testing arrangements.

I am sure you will be familiar with the changes announced earlier this week but, in summary, they are as follows:

- There is no longer a legal requirement to self-isolate if you have symptoms or have tested positive for COVID-19. This is replaced by advice that you take a PCR if you have symptoms and then self-isolate if positive, followed by taking LFT tests after 5 full days and ending the isolation period following two consecutive negative tests.
- Free PCR and LFD will be available until the end of March. After this, they will need to be bought from a commercial supplier.
- Schools will not be supplied with any more LFDs for asymptomatic testing unless there is a confirmed outbreak. Asymptomatic testing will no longer take place in schools.

Given this development, we will no longer be providing LFD tests for students to do twice weekly asymptomatic testing.

Dealing with positive cases

Schools and other educational settings can continue to implement the requirement for students not to attend school if they are symptomatic or test positive for COVID-19. Therefore, we will continue to expect children with any of the classic symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, new continuous or persistent cough, changes to or loss of sense of taste or smell) to stay at home pending the result of a PCR test and then to remain off school if they test positive for a least 5 full days; returning to school after day 5 if they have two consecutive negative LFD results. If a student has symptoms but does not take a PCR test, they should remain at home for 10 days. We will be able to provide LFDs for students who need to take the day 5 and 6 tests. These will be sent home with a sibling or posted home if parents are unable to collect the test kit from school. Please contact the school via our attendance email (attendance@klbschool.org.uk) to request a LFD tests if your child tests positive for COVID-19.

Face coverings

Students will no longer be expected to wear masks in school. This will be down to personal choice. A few staff may ask students to wear a mask in their lessons. We would appreciate students' cooperation with this and will provide masks free of charge in these teachers' lessons as well as at other central points around school. We are aware that masks have allowed some students to hide facial piercings, so ask these are removed ready for the start of next term. We await confirmation from Gloucestershire about the requirement to wear face coverings on dedicated transport. Until we can confirm this, students should make sure they have a mask if they are using school transport.

Parents visiting the school

Over the coming weeks, we will be reviewing other arrangements which we introduced to prevent the transmission of Covid. If students have left anything at home that they need during the day, parents are welcome to pop these in to reception, as they would have done before Covid. In addition, we are happy to welcome parents back to school for individual meetings with teachers but, following the overwhelming feedback from parents in our survey last year, we will continue to hold parents' evenings virtually. We will review this later in the year.

Your support in ensuring that we continue to mitigate against the possibility of widespread transmission in school is appreciated. Whilst we understand that the health risks for the vast majority of our school community are now very low, there are some members of our community who are vulnerable and we have a responsibility to do all that we can to minimise the risk for them. In addition, there is a very real possibility of continued disruption to learning if staff absence rates increase to the levels seen at the end of last term and we want to do all that we can to avoid this.

Best wishes
Hannah Khan