

Executive Head teacher: Mrs C Whelan BA (Hons) QTS NPQH Pg Cert

Head of School: Mrs S Hill BA (hons) QTS PG Cert

9<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been such a delight to have the children back in school. They have settled wonderfully – the children look incredibly smart, they are calm and there are lots of smiling faces!

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify some matters:

## Covid-19 measures

As outlined at the beginning of term, we now have new operational and attendance guidance which outlines what families should do regarding close contacts, isolation and school attendance.

Please note the following quotations from the guidance:

Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, **should continue to attend school as normal.** 



Pupils who have symptoms of COVID-19, or have had a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test, should self-isolate and get a confirmatory PCR test. If a pupil tests negative and if they feel well, they can stop self-isolating and return to school.

We understand that this shift in rules is a sensitive one and it may seem uncomfortable sending in your child, or their sibling, if there is another member of the household with a positive case, however these are the attendance guidelines we are to follow and as such any non-attendance for reasons other than those reasons above may be logged as unauthorised. We will continue to be vigilant and of course will work with families on individual circumstances. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you are unsure of what to do in a particular situation. Please also continue to inform us of any developments in your own household if symptoms or positive cases are present or if they have been contacts. We will track carefully any cases within school and have measures in place if cases were to rise.

## Requests for absence

As usual, parents should plan their holidays within school breaks and avoid seeking permission to take their children out of school during term time. Families should also consider that their child may need to self-isolate following trips overseas that require a period of quarantine. Our school term dates are on our website and we request you consult these before any trips are booked.

## **Communications**

We have now moved IT providers and linked to this have new email addresses. These and key contacts are on our website. **Please note we are phasing out the head@ email** and so to contact myself directly please email <u>Samantha.hill@oak.mmat.co.uk</u>. Mrs Whelan can be emailed on <u>Carla.whelan@mmat.co.uk</u>

Thank you for your understanding during these times of change,

Kind Regards

Mrs S Hill Head of School





Nursery: @Ladybirdsoak



