

# 'Together we grow, Together we flourish'



Date 22.07.2021

Dear Parents

As you will be aware, there have been a variety of different changes made to COVID restrictions this week as step 4 has now commenced. It is important to us that you feel supported through this and that you have all of the information that you need to feel fully informed upon your return to school in September. With this in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the key messages that you will need to be aware of. As always, if you have any questions, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

## What will I need to know when my child returns in September?

- There will be no staggered start and end time of the school day. The gate will open at 8:40am and close at 9am. Children will then be dismissed at 3:15pm (3:00pm for Nursery and EYFS).
- School activities, such as collective worship, can include the whole school meaning that children can come together for these times of the school week.
- Each school will have an outbreak management plan that they will put into action in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19.
- Schools will no longer have responsibility for contact tracing but may assist with this as advised.
- From 16 August 2021, adults who are double vaccinated and children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case.
- 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.
- Parents are still required to report all positive tests LFD and PCR to schools as soon as possible.
- Bubbles are no longer required in schools but they may be reintroduced if required as part of advice taken from Public Health England.
- Classrooms must continue to be fully ventilated where possible.
- We will continue to update and adapt our school risk assessment following up to date government guidance and this information will be available.
- The system of controls such as handwashing, ventilation and enhanced cleaning will continue to form an important part of controlling COVID-19.

## Face Coverings

The government is removing the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they be worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. We would strongly recommend that, where possible, you would continue to wear a face covering when dropping and collecting your child to and from school. This way, we can collectively ensure that we are doing everything that we can to keep our school community safe and this action will support this. Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.



Dartington C of E Academy  
Shinner's Bridge, Dartington  
Devon, TQ9 6JU  
T: 01803 862357  
E: [dartington@lapsw.org](mailto:dartington@lapsw.org)



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### **Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age. If you have concerns about your child attending school, please can I ask that you discuss these concerns with us and we will do everything possible to support you and your child in feeling confident to return to school in September.

All clinically extremely vulnerable children and young people should attend school unless they are under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their clinician or other specialist not to attend. If you feel that this is applicable to your child then, again, please do contact me as soon as possible to discuss this.

### **Positive rapid lateral flow test results**

Anyone with a positive test result will need to:

- self-isolate in line with the [stay at home guidance](#)
- [book a further test](#) (a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test) to confirm the result.

Whilst awaiting the PCR result, your child should continue to self-isolate.

If you suspect your child has coronavirus or has a positive test please do not send your child to school. This is inclusive when:

- they are showing one or more [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#)
- they have had a positive test result
- there are other reasons requiring them to stay at home, for example, they are [required to quarantine](#)

You should follow public health advice on [when to self-isolate and what to do](#).

If you would like to refer to the government guidance for parents and carers in full, please follow this link:

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

I can't thank all of you enough for all of your support, patience and understanding in what has been an unprecedented year. I salute the resilience that all of our children have shown and I look forward to continuing to work with you to keep all of our children, staff and families.

Best wishes,



Mrs Huish  
Head of Academy



Dartington C of E Academy  
Shinner's Bridge, Dartington  
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E: [dartington@lapsw.org](mailto:dartington@lapsw.org)



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