



COALWAY COMMUNITY INFANT SCHOOL

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31st October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope everyone has enjoyed a lovely break with family and friends. We return to school tomorrow, Monday 1st November, and are looking forward to seeing everyone again for another busy term!

We have been advised by the South West UK Health Security Agency (formerly PHE), the South West Directors of Public Health and Gloucester County Council, to reintroduce some additional control measures initially this term to reduce possible COVID-19 transmission.

This is in light of the increase in local case rates and the rise in outbreaks within school settings last term, as well as mixing during the half term break.

We will therefore be putting in place some extra precautionary measures for the first 2 weeks of this term, including reducing mixing of year groups as much as possible, pausing any large gatherings, continuing twice weekly LFD testing and continuing good infection control practices (ventilation, touchpoint cleaning and hygiene measures).

We would ask that parents and carers continue to remain vigilant for COVID-19 symptoms and keep their child at home and get a PCR test if any arise. If the PCR is negative, children can return to school as soon as they are well enough to do so. If positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days.

If someone in the household tests positive, 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.

Current public health advice for our region states that settings can advise household siblings (secondary school age) of confirmed cases to take daily LFD while awaiting their PCR test results and to continue to attend school (unless their test is positive). This is also advised for primary school aged children but is at the discretion of the parent/guardian.

Please remember, no-one should come on to the school site if they feel unwell; have COVID-19 symptoms; are self-isolating when positive; have been contacted by NHS Test and Trace; or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of passing on COVID-19 (e.g. they are required to quarantine).

Our Virtual School Office arrangements will continue this term; please don't hesitate to get in touch via the contacts above should you require anything at all or to keep us informed of absence.

Thank you and kind regards. We look forward to seeing everyone tomorrow!

F. Hamilton
Headteacher