



Sutton in Craven C.E (V.C) Primary School

Flourish together, in the love of God, to live life in all its fullness.

Main Street, Sutton in Craven, Keighley, BD20 7JS

Tel: 01535 632181, Email: admin@sutton-in-cravencofe.n-yorks.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs O Gibbons



1st March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your family have had a wonderful, restful half term break and would like to welcome you back as we see the first signs of Spring.

I am writing to advise you of the changes to Government COVID-19 guidance which came into place from Thursday 24 February 2022. Whilst we are now learning to live with COVID-19, it is important to remember that the global pandemic is not yet over. However, the Government have stated that vaccines have enabled the gradual and safe removal of restrictions on everyday life over the past year and will remain at the heart of their approach to living with the virus in the future.

On Monday 21st February 2022, the Prime Minister announced the following:

Testing:

Regular asymptomatic testing has helped to reduce transmission in education and childcare settings and maintain face-to-face education and care. However, it has also placed a burden on teachers, parents, pupils and students throughout the pandemic.

The Government has announced therefore that it is in a position to lift this guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings, allowing pupils and students across the country to focus on their education. This guidance was lifted as of Tuesday 22 February 2022.

The Legal Duty to Self-Isolate:

As of Thursday 24 February 2022, the Government has removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test.

Adults and children who test positive will **continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days** and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days or until the 10th day.

- Fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 will no longer be required to test daily for 7 days, and the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate has been removed.
- Routine contact tracing will end. Contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests.





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- Free testing will end from 1st April 2022 for the general public, including those with symptoms. However, the Government will continue to provide free tests for symptomatic people for the oldest age groups, and those who are most vulnerable.

Following our school's robust risk assessment, we will continue to have additional precautionary measures in place to reduce the transmission of the virus. These include, adequate and sufficient ventilation throughout the day in classrooms and communal areas of school, effective hand washing, catch it, bin it, kill it as well as regular cleaning processes of our facilities.

School attendance is mandatory for all children of compulsory school age, and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school. Therefore, your child should be attending school unless they are not well enough to attend or they test positive for COVID 19 – see guidance above. Children who are at home should access remote learning.

We very much recognise and appreciate the support and cooperation that everyone has shown to the range of safety measures we have implemented at Sutton CE over the last two years, all of which have been in line with Government and Public Health guidance. It has helped us to ensure the health and safety of our children, staff and school community, whilst limiting disruption to learning as much as possible.

There may be some uncertainty around the new changes, but I assure you that we will continue to closely follow guidance from the Government, Public Health England and our local health protection teams to ensure all decisions are made in the best interest of our children and staff.

As such, whilst we sincerely hope that we can continue to operate with minimal restrictions and minimal or no disruption to learning, it may be the case that some safety measures need to be temporarily reinstated depending on school or local community circumstances and we would ask for your support should this be needed.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Thank you once again for all your support that you continue to provide.

With very best wishes,

Orla Gibbons

Mrs Orla Gibbons

Headteacher

