



25<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will have heard in the news, the Government are implementing their next phase in the 'Living with COVID-19 response'. COVID-19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with and the imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education remains a priority.

The **main changes** are:

- Removing the requirement for bubbles.
- Ending routine contact tracing.
- Twice weekly testing in mainstream schools will no longer be required.
- No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts to test daily for 7 days, and remove the legal requirements for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.
- Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff or visitors.
- COVID-19 vaccines are now being offered to all children aged 5-11.

As before, any of these changes could be temporarily reinstated as part of our COVID Contingency Plan if cases were to rise significantly.

The key message from Surrey County Council is that:

- Pupils/Students and staff should attend if they are well.
- Pupils/Students and staff should stay at home if they are unwell.

In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with the key symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others. The Local Authority have advised us that '*pupils and staff should stay at home if they are unwell and that school should refuse entry to those that are symptomatic or unwell*'. Therefore, if a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending school where they have a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, the school can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in their reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.

We will update you and our relevant documents following the publication of the UKHSA guidance due to be published at a later date.

Best wishes,

Laura Bassett-Cross  
Acting Head Teacher