



Friday 22nd October 2021

Managing Covid-19 transmission in schools

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you well.

We have received advice from the Local Authority this week around safety restrictions for local schools next term. As I am sure you are aware, COVID-19 infection rates have been steadily rising again. As a result, Slough have issued further measures for schools to adapt according to their school circumstances to help keep everyone safe.

The 3 key principles include:

1. The recommendations must be proportionate to the current public health risk and disruption to education.
2. The recommendations focus on measures that will cause minimal disruption to the effective operation of schools and colleges.
3. The recommendations will be implemented for a defined period, with a regular review based on the data and will seek to sufficiently control transmission to avoid having to introduce even more restrictive measures in future.

We have only had a very small number of positive cases at Claycots since the start of September and we are keen to make some small changes to help us to ensure that this remains the case. The following increased measures will be introduced on Monday 1st November, when the children return to school and will stay in place until the end of the Christmas term.

- Use of face coverings in indoor communal areas (unless exempt) for staff and visitors in school
- Enhanced ventilation in the dinner hall
- All assemblies virtual
- School events can go ahead, but visitors to school must adhere to social distancing rules and wear masks for inside events. Each event will be risk assessed by the school in advance. Information will be shared with parents leading up to the event
- After school clubs can continue with safety measures in place and outside clubs are deemed to be low risk
- More frequent Lateral Flow Tests for staff
- Additional daily testing for children and staff who are named as close contacts (see information below)

We will also be asking parents to be mindful of others during drop off and pick up by maintaining a distance where possible and wearing a face mask in more crowded areas.

If the numbers in school rise, then additional measures will be put in place.



Lateral Flow Tests for Young Children.

When there is a close contact with a case, especially within a household, we are asking everyone to take a daily lateral flow test for 7 days, in addition to taking a one-off PCR test, to spot infections as quickly as possible.

We have asked for this testing to happen as there is strong evidence from the daily contact testing trial conducted in 201 schools between April and June 2021 that daily testing of exposed students and staff for COVID-19 was equivalent to self-isolation of whole year groups. If your child tests positive for COVID-19 please continue to contact the school as soon as possible and we will advise what to do regarding any siblings that also attend.

I hope this helps to clarify our safety restrictions after the holidays. If there are any Government changes over the break, we will amend the above as necessary.

As always, if you have any further questions or queries please contact the school office via email: enquiries@claycots.com or by telephone 01753 521215.

I look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 1st November.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Mijatovich
Headteacher