

Drayton & Nightingale Partnership

Drayton Community Infant School and Nightingale Infant and Nursery School

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Dear Drayton and Nightingale families,

Welcome back to the Spring term. We hope you had a restful Christmas holiday and was able to spend some quality time with family and friends.

As you will be aware, Covid-19 cases are extremely high and it is likely these numbers will continue to rise into January, impacting families and staff. We have had a number of staff who have tested positive over the Christmas break, with some still in isolation and unable to return for the start of the new term. We are aware of some children testing positive also. If your child is still isolating and will not be able to return tomorrow, please contact the school office in the usual way.

Update for guidance for pupils, staff and their families

- All staff and visitors (with the exception of those who are exempt), will wear face coverings when moving around school. Staff will only wear face covering outside of their normal teaching space and/or when meeting with essential visitors. They are not required to wear coverings while teaching however they may choose to if they wish. We kindly ask all adults and children over 11 to wear a face covering when entering our school site. This is to ensure the safety of everyone when distancing is not possible.
- Visitors to school remain limited. All essential visitors into school are asked to complete an LFD test before arriving, wear a face covering and remain distant. Where possible we only have visitors into school outside of school times to reduce the number of contacts for pupils and staff.
- Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation. Staff will continue testing on day 8, 9 and 10 if ending isolation early following 2 negative LFD tests.
- People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.
- Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They

can attend an education setting or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the Government guidance.

From the positive cases we have seen in school, many of the common symptoms have not been present. If your child has sickness.

We continue to follow our contingency plans for increased cases in school which were shared with you in September. These can also be found on our website. Some of the measures which may be taken include:

- Isolating classes/year groups within school
- Reintroduction of bubbles
- Staggered starts/finishes
- Closing wrap around care to individual classes/year groups where an outbreak has been identified
- Closure of classes/year groups where staffing is significantly impacted

Our priority is to provide consistent face to face teaching for all children. Towards the end of the autumn term, we saw critical staffing levels and had days where supply staff were needed to ensure safe levels of staffing. Supply staff levels continue to be critically low so this is not always possible.

In the event of high staff absence rates, we may be required to take the following action:

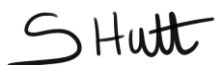
- Cover classes internally with part time teachers increasing days and/or support staff stepping up into a cover supervisor role
- Merge classes where numbers are reduced
- Close to some classes and/or year groups – switching to online learning for short periods of time.

Closing to classes and year groups is a last resort and is not a decision which will be taken lightly. In the event of a partial closure, learning will move to our online platforms of Tapestry and Seesaw after day 3. The level of 'live learning' and feedback we are able to offer will depend on the staffing capacity. On days 1 and 2 of any closure, activities and learning can be used from our home learning resources provided. Full details of can be found in our Remote Learning Policy, available on the school websites.

We will continue to update you with any new guidance we receive. Please ensure we have your most up to date contact details so you receive emails, phone calls and texts.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding in these challenging times. The next few weeks and months are likely to be more challenging than ever, but we will continue to do everything we can to ensure the children's education is disrupted as little as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Hutt

Acting Partnership Headteacher