

Heaton Park Primary and Nursery School

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13th December 2021

Preventative COVID measures in School

Dear Parents/Carers

You will all be aware of the growing national concerns in regards to the spread of this latest COVID variant. Unfortunately we now feel that we need to re-introduce greater COVID restrictions into school in order to mitigate as far as we can the spread of the virus through our community.

From today all visitors into the school building will need to wear a face covering and this will include the office reception area. If you have a medical exemption to this rule then please can you bring medical proof of this and especially so if you are coming into school for a meeting.

Members of staff will also be returning to wearing face coverings within school communal areas and if they are speaking with parents.

Lunchtimes will also change slightly in order to slightly tighten the separation between our year groups as far as is possible. This however is not so much of a change as this has been the case generally since we returned in September.

Drop off and pick up times will remain the same but you must follow the one-way system around school and please be aware of your social distancing. We are not planning to re-introduce face coverings outside of school at the moment.

New guidance and legislation with regards to close contact for anyone coming into close contact with someone with a positive test is that the close contact should now take a **Lateral Flow Test** each day for 7 days and that should include children. In light of this we will inform you if we have had a positive case within your child's class in order that your children can start taking the LF test if needs be.

I am sharing this information with you at this point so that you can discuss the reasons for these changes with your children and especially so with our much younger children. They may wonder why teachers and staff have started wearing face coverings around school again for example. Obviously we will discuss this here in school as well.

One day this will all come to an end, but at the moment we must continue to work together as we have over the last 2 years or so, in order to keep everyone as safe as possible. We will keep this situation under review and I will be in touch after the holiday with any updates if we have them, on the current situation and how it may affect our school in the New Year.

Many thanks as always with your ongoing support and co-operation

Kind regards

P. J. Lord