



Thornhill Primary School
Thornhill Gardens
Shildon
Co. Durham
DL4 1ES

Head teacher: Miss S Overfield

Telephone: 01388 772906
Email: thornhill@durhamlearning.net

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Dear Parent/carer,

New Covid Updates

Hope you all had a restful half term and we are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school today for the Spring term.

On 21st February, the Government announced the Living with Covid-19 strategy:
www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-living-with-covid-19

This step removes the remaining legal restrictions used to manage the pandemic and moves the management of the disease towards the Public Health standard approaches for managing infectious diseases.

This change in the approach has been reflected in DfE guidance for schools and therefore the school has updated its risk assessment accordingly, which is available on our school website.

The main changes moving forward are as follows:

Self-Isolation / Pupils with Covid-19 symptoms

- Whilst the legal requirement for cases to self-isolate is now removed from 24th February, adults and children who test positive or have symptoms of Covid-19 will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.
- The guidance for individuals states that children and young people with Covid-19 or have symptoms of Covid-19 should not attend their education setting whilst they are infectious.
- The national Public Health advice is that anyone who has tested positive for Covid-19 should self-isolate at home for at least 5 full days, with LFD testing starting from 5 days after the day symptoms started (or the day the test was taken if there are no symptoms), and be undertaken daily until there are two consecutive negative tests at which point self-isolation may end provided the case has no fever/high temperature. The advised self-isolation period for cases ends for all cases after 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset.
- Free LFD tests are available until 1st April.
- In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with the key symptoms of Covid-19 should not attend given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on their child attending your school where they have a confirmed or suspected case of Covid-19, the head teacher can take the decision to refuse them if, in their reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect others from possible infection with Covid-19.

Close Contacts

- There is no requirement for close contacts and household contacts of cases to self-isolate or undertake 7 days of LFD testing and this includes unvaccinated adults.
- No contact tracing is required to take place in school and routine national contact tracing will end.

Face- Covering

- The use of face coverings in communal areas for all adults is no longer recommended.

Routine Testing

- Routine twice weekly LFD testing has ceased for all staff in mainstream primary schools.

Remote Learning

- For children unable to come to school due to COVID, we continue to offer remote learning via Teams and Seesaw. The class teacher will be in touch on the first day of isolation to make arrangements.

We have been advised to move forward with a cautious approach to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus in school. Contingency plans are in place should they be required.

All other routines and procedures will remain in place and we will continue to review these over this Spring term.

The school will work with parents/carers to ensure we follow the guidance and keep our children, families and staff as safe as possible.

If you are unsure about what to do, please contact school and we are always happy to help.

Kind regards,

S Overfield

Miss S Overfield
Head teacher
