

Pear Tree Primary School
Pear Tree Field
Stapeley
Nantwich
CW5 7GZ



Tel: 01270 906120
e-mail: admin@peartree.cheshire.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs B Edleston
August 31st 2021

A Pear Tree View of the New Guidance – Working together to keep our Community safe

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had time to have a break over the past few weeks and we look forward to our first day back on Thursday September 2nd, new Reception starters, we look forward to meeting you at your allotted slot on Wednesday 1st.

As we return we enter a new phase of national COVID management. There has been some big changes over the holidays and I know that this may be raising a few questions for you. Below I have tried to summarise how we 'manage' things as we move forward.....accepting all of this is based on today's current guidance but could all change!

Information for Parents/Carers September 2021

The focus now is stopping children's education being disrupted by COVID. Vaccination rates are high in our area and self-isolation rules have now changed. Therefore if your child is well, they need to be in school. This is best for their social, emotional and academic well-being and is what we are required to ask of our parents/carers from September.

What happens now if there is a positive case in my child's class?

Unless there is an outbreak, (an outbreak is two or more test confirmed cases), school will not be required to routinely identify close contacts of positive cases, and this duty will pass now to contact tracers in the NHS or Local Authority.

Isolation of close contacts will not be required if any of the following apply, even if they live in the same household:

- Fully vaccinated with the second dose at least 2 weeks prior to contact,
- **Below the age of 18 years 6 months, (siblings of a positive case under this age can continue to come to school.**
- Taking part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial,
- Not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

What does School do now if there is a case? Will we be told?

- We will record case with LA/Public Health.
- There would be no isolations (See criteria shown above on page 1).
- All parents of the class affected will be sent what is termed a 'Warn and Inform' letter by school which makes you aware that your child may be contacted by Track and Trace if they are identified as a close contact and they may be advised to book a PCR test and/or limit their social contact. That is NOT done by school anymore. You will also be told your child should continue to attend school as normal and can carry out all other activities in line with national guidance and following all safety measures which have been put in place.
- The letter will remind you to continue LFT testing for close contacts and you as parents/carers.

So what is school doing to keep cases down?

- We will maintain our increased cleaning regime and reduce mixing between the affected class and other classes for a ten day period with the aim of stopping wider school transmission.
- We will maintain our bubbles system for the first month to six weeks and gradually move to more mixing between classes... only if it is safe to do so.
- We will continue to temperature check pupils on arrival until at least half term.
- We will continue to ask you to wear a mask when coming onto school grounds unless you are medically exempt – please support us with this. These are the actions we will take if we are notified of a confirmed case in one or more of the classes:
- We will continue with an extended drop off and collection time for at least the first month then review based on local infection rates.
- We will maintain twice weekly LFT testing of all staff in school.
- We would continue to ask you not to congregate outside of school and move on swiftly at drop off and collection times.
- We will continue to keep all classrooms well ventilated.

So what can we do to support School to keep infection levels down?

TESTING – this is now critical. Remember lateral flow (rapid tests) are only helpful/accurate if you or your child are symptom-free. **If there are any symptoms at all go for a PCR.**

Below are recommendations that we know would support keeping COVID rates down.

- A minimum of twice weekly LFT (rapid) testing for those who are eligible. Tests are freely available in local pharmacies.
- Please note....As September begins testing kit types will change – Orient Gene or Acon Flex kits will be issued more, but use the old stocks you have first they still work.
- All positive LFT to be confirmed by PCR within 2 days.

These are the measures we will follow from September 1st. Please support us with these. We cannot be certain exactly what the future holds but remember how far we have come by working together and if in any doubt, contact us. Remember we have to manage 217 children and nearly 40 staff on site. The more we work together the easier things work, please work with us to accept routines and procedures so the term runs smoothly for all.

With my kind regards,

Mrs E.