

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Hazelgrove Road

Haywards Heath

West Sussex

RH16 3PQ

Headteacher: Mrs Catherine Walker BEd (Hons) MA



West Sussex County Council

Telephone: (01444) 452584

Fax: (01444) 414760

e-mail: office@stjosephshh.org.uk

website: www.stjosephshh.org.uk

1st April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to let you know about the changes to managing COVID in school going forward and about the changes that have come into force today, 1st April. As with all things, I anticipate that these may change or be updated, but wanted to give you the school's current position.

Updated guidance:

- *adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature;*
- *children and young people who are unwell and/or have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend;*
- *adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days.*

The population now has much stronger protection against COVID-19 than at any other point in the pandemic. This means we can begin to manage the virus like other respiratory infections, thanks to the success of the vaccination programme and access to antivirals, alongside natural immunity and increased scientific and public understanding about how to manage risk.

This indicates that adults will still need confirmation of a positive test result although it still does not stipulate whether PCR tests will remain attainable. I will be advising our staff to get PCR tests if they can and to use any Lateral Flow Tests, if they have them, to identify if they have COVID. If they have a positive test, I will ask them to remain at home whilst they are poorly and to return to work on the 6th day after symptoms began.

For children, the expectation is really clear; if they are unwell, they should not come into school, especially if they have a temperature. They should not return to school unless they are well. We would ask that if you have access to Lateral Flow Tests that you test your child, if the test is positive, they should remain at home for 3 days from the date of the test or when symptoms started.

I do hope that this guidance supports us all returning to a new normal and hope that the information here is clear.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Walker
Headteacher

