



11th February 2022

Important Communication from the CEO

Dear Parents/carers

You may be aware that the Prime Minister this week indicated that he was hopeful that all COVID 19 restrictions may be removed a month earlier than originally planned.

With this announcement expected after half term, I am both delighted and a little cautious about this. Whilst eager to return to our normal school environment, I do have some reservations about the removal of all our procedures that we have implemented within our Outbreak Management Plans.

As a Trust we have managed COVID extremely well, which is a testament to the hard work of all our colleagues, pupils and communities.

After consulting with Principals and Doncaster Public Health, we have taken the decision to review local and academy data on a weekly basis in order to step down measures in a managed phased approach.

Whilst we are all excited to reintroduce whole school assemblies and events, these may not be implemented until the summer term. Some academies may also choose to continue to adopt procedures that they have implemented throughout this period due to them being beneficial to pupils learning and the organisation of the school day.

The rates of infection throughout our Trust have reduced significantly and we are hopeful that by taking this cautious approach it will reduce the chances of further outbreaks within our academies

I would like to thank you for helping us to successfully manage this by following the national guidance and our Trust procedures to protect and reduce the spread of this virus within our academies and their wider communities.

The measures that will remain in place within Sheep Dip Lane Academy are as follows:

- **Staff members will continue to undertake LFT**
- **Staff members and all visitors will continue to wear face coverings within busy communal areas**
- **Everyone will be encouraged to wash/sanitise their hands regularly throughout the day**
- **Regular cleaning throughout the day**
- Staggered drop off and pick up times with gate closure at 8:50 and 15:10
- Pupils will continue to come dressed in kit on PE days



Please ensure that you continue to follow the current government guidance.

Current Guidance

If you are aged 5 years and over and have been identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19, and you are not legally required to self-isolate, you are now strongly advised to:

- take a lateral flow test every day for 7 days
- take a daily lateral flow test before you leave your home for the first time that day

People who are self-isolating with COVID-19 have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device on both day 5 and day 6 (24 hours apart) and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can leave isolation.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be reported through to NHS track and trace.

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

The Government is urging everyone to book in for a booster jab if eligible in order to protect yourself and your family members

Once again, I would like to thank you all for your continued support, we very much hope that you understand our reasons for continuing with these measures. As always, the safety of our pupils and staff is paramount and we will continue to keep you informed of any new updates.

I wish you a happy, safe half term and look forward to seeing you when we return.

Yours sincerely

Beryce Nixon
CEO
National Leader of Education