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THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

Love as Brethren

Headteacher: Ms Sue Hay, BA(Hons), PGDip, NPQH

St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 3HS

| Tel: 01708 250500 | Email: info@cooperscoborn.org.uk | Website: www.cooperscoborn.org.uk |

Tuesday 28th September 2021

Dear parent(s)/carer(s)

COVID-19 protocols

As we approach the end of the first month back at school, I thought it would be useful to remind all parents/carers of the current protocols regarding COVID-19. The advice/protocols have obviously changed at various points over the past 18 months and I know, as a parent myself, how useful it is to be reminded:

What to do if your child is symptomatic:

Please do not send your son/daughter to school if they are presenting with one of the three symptoms, as defined on the NHS website:

- A new, continuous cough
- A loss of taste/smell
- A high temperature

Instead, they should self-isolate and as they are symptomatic they should take a PCR test and not return to school until they receive a negative result. Unfortunately, there still appears to be some confusion regarding the type of test that should be completed if a student is symptomatic. Please note that a PCR test is required, not one of the Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests which you would only use if your child was asymptomatic (without symptoms) as part of the twice weekly self-testing programme.

It goes without saying, that if your son/daughter displays any of these symptoms whilst in school, then we will obviously have to send them home to book in for a PCR test. I know this is very frustrating, but I am sure you understand why.

If your child returns a positive PCR test:

Please call the school as soon as possible; the number to call for any positive cases is 07966 236 607. In line with the national guidance, we would recommend that your child stay at home and self-isolate. We would ask you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID 19 to others in the community.

The isolation would be for a period of 10 days.

Your child would not be able to return to school if he/she still presented with any of these symptoms after 10 days:

- a high temperature or feeling hot and shivery
- a runny nose or sneezing



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- feeling or being sick (please wait 48 hours before returning to school)
- diarrhoea (please wait 48 hours before returning to school)

As a result of the positive PCR test you should be contacted by NHS 'Track and Trace' to identify 'proximity contacts' as the school is not required to complete any 'Track and Trace' activities. Individuals would then be contacted by the NHS and be advised that they are a close contact of an individual with COVID-19 and would be asked to take a PCR test. It is likely that all family members would also be asked to complete a PCR test. We would ask you to contact the school to confirm the 10-day isolation period start/end dates so that we can update our attendance registers. It is important to note that if your child returns a positive PCR test result, they cannot continue with LFD (Lateral Flow Device) tests for a period of 12 weeks. In this situation we would strongly recommend you are highly vigilant of possible COVID-19 symptoms with other family members and you may decide as a family to undertake regular daily testing.

Please note that following the changes that took place on 19th August 2021 and as a result, the wider family (living in the same household) would not be required to self-isolate if any of the following applied:

- An individual is fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since a final (2nd) dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS
- An individual is under 18 years, 6 months old – therefore any other siblings of school age can continue to attend school.
- An individual is taking part or has taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial
- An individual is unable to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Work would be set on Google Classrooms for your child to complete over this period. If there were any problems with the work then you would contact your child's Head of Year, or email the helpline address at wlfh@cooperscoborn.co.uk

If your child returns a positive Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test:

Please call the school as soon as possible; the number to call for any positive cases is 07966 236 607. In line with the national guidance, we would recommend that your child stay at home and self-isolate. We would ask you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID 19 to others in the community. It would be recommended that you arrange for your child to complete a confirmatory PCR test.

If a PCR test is completed within 48 hours, and the result is negative, then your child may return to school immediately – please contact us first if this is the case. If no PCR test is booked, or it is completed after 48 hours, then the 10-day isolation period should be completed. If the PCR test is positive, then obviously, the 10-day isolation period should be completed.

All of the other information pertaining to 'if your child returns a positive PCR test' would apply.

Regular Lateral Flow Testing:

Students are encouraged by the government to continue with twice weekly lateral flow device (LFD) testing. We would ask all students/parents to continue to record their results on the following Google Form:



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<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScxuMBIY6HuCfBclfv-odWGKDsPCPTi9S369cNJj5VCqCvQ/viewform>

Lateral Flow Testing Kits can be ordered online or picked up from many locations such as pharmacies/local council facilities such as libraries.

Thank you for your continued understanding; if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at the school.

Yours sincerely

Ms S Hay
Headteacher