

## **Community Inclusive Trust**

Poplar Farm School Helmsley Road Grantham NG31 8XF

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25<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

On 21<sup>st</sup> February the Prime Minister outlined the "Living with Covid" Plan where isolation is no longer a legal requirement (but is still recommended) and contact tracing has now ended. Schools have now received new operational guidance to reflect both this change and the UKSHA guidance. The guidance 'COVID 19- People with COVID 19 and their contacts' has also been updated and can be found at this link <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/</a>

It is vital to remember that we are still in a global pandemic, Covid is prevalent in our local community, and therefore we have a personal responsibility to look after each other. As a Trust we continue to expect our schools to follow the latest guidance, so I thought it timely to write to you, so you are clear what is now expected and how you can support schools to limit the effects of COVID within their communities.

Contrary to mainstream schools, all SEND settings are advised to continue twice weekly testing for staff and pupils in year 7 and above. Therefore, we would be grateful if you could continue supporting your child to test twice weekly. Tests can be ordered through the Government website <a href="https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests">https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests</a> or you can continue to get testing packs from school.

Should your child have symptoms or test positive, guidance is clear that:

"Children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting while they are infectious. They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they should return to their educational setting if they normally attend one, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature. They should follow the guidance for their educational setting."

## A Multi Academy Trust for:

GANF - Ambergate Sports College | GANF - Sandon School | Isaac Newton Primary School

SSS – The Garth School | SSS – The Priory School | Boston Endeavour Academy Woodlands Academy | Poplar Farm Primary School | Caythorpe Primary School Chapel St Leonards Primary School | Greenfields Academy | St Paul's Community Primary School and Nursery | Foxfields Academy | Bowman Academy | Linchfield Community Primary School | Bingham Primary School | LEARN Teaching Centre





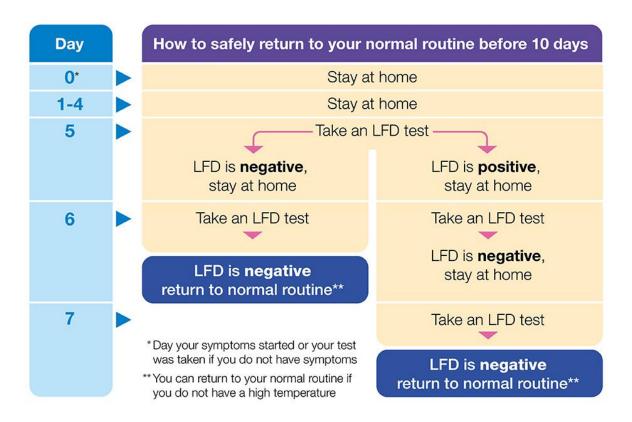
Please keep your child at home if they have symptoms or test positive for COVID and contact school as soon as possible to discuss their return.

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are a recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If you have any of these symptoms you should order a PCR test. You are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people while you are waiting for the test result.

Other symptoms linked with COVID-19 include shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of appetite, muscle aches, sore throat, headache, stuffy or runny nose, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting. Any of these symptoms may also have another cause.



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If someone in the household has COVID please discuss this with school immediately as we have pupils with complex health needs that we need to ensure are kept safe.

Schools will still be expected to work proactively to minimise the risk of infection and spread of the virus. In line with the guidance, pupils will not be permitted in school if they have confirmed COVID or have COVID symptoms.

Schools will keep you informed of any positive cases that you need to be aware of, so you know if you need to be extra vigilant of symptoms.

I would like to thank you for your continued support of the schools, this has been a difficult two years but hopefully we are starting to see light at the end of the tunnel.

Yours sincerely

Claire Buffham

Chulha

Director of Education (SEND)

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