



# Brunswick Park Primary School

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**Head Teacher: Susannah Bellingham**

*Learning for living through respect, support and challenge*

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## To All Parents and Carers

24 February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

The UK Government announced changes on 21 February to the approach to supporting the population during the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of these changes take place from today. This letter details the changes that affect EYFS and Primary-aged children.

**The main change is there is no longer a legal requirement to self-isolate if a person has symptoms of COVID-19.** People are now expected to take personal responsibility for managing any symptoms, and use their common sense when mixing with other people.

COVID-19 has not gone away, and everyone in our school community has responsibility for ongoing infection control to keep the children, families and those who work with them safe and healthy, and to ensure the children's continuing education. At Brunswick Park we will follow the advice and guidance of Southwark Council's Public Health Team, which is:

*To continue to advise all Children and Young People (CYP) settings including Early Years, Schools and Universities to continue encouraging COVID-19 prevention behaviours. Individuals can still reduce the risk of catching and passing on COVID-19 by:*

- a) Getting vaccinated if eligible (this is a choice);*
- b) Letting fresh air in if meeting indoors, or meeting outside;*
- c) Wearing a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces, especially where you come into contact with people you do not usually meet, when rates of transmission are high;*
- d) Trying to stay at home if you are unwell;*
- e) Taking a test if you have COVID-19 symptoms, and staying at home and avoiding contact with other people if you test positive; and*
- f) Washing your hands and following advice to 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it'.*

Public Health advice is that regular testing in mainstream education and childcare settings is no longer advised. Therefore, Brunswick staff are no longer required to take twice-weekly lateral flow tests. Children at primary school have never taken part in COVID-19 testing in school, so for them there is no change.

If a child or a member of staff has symptoms of COVID-19, they should still take a PCR test, stay at home and follow government guidance if positive. People who have tested positive will continue to be advised to stay at home for five full days and then receive two negative test results on consecutive days before returning to school.



If there is an outbreak of COVID-19 at the school, we will still follow our Outbreak Management Plan, which is available to view on the school website. The plan begins with contacting Public Health Southwark, who advises schools about the action to take in their particular circumstances.

Here is a summary of the changes to Government Guidance from today:

**From 24 February** the Government will:

- Remove the **legal** requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.
- No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days, and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.
- End self-isolation support payments, national funding for practical support and the medicine delivery service will no longer be available.
- End routine contact tracing. Contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests.
- End the legal obligation for individuals to tell their employers when they are required to self-isolate.
- Revoke The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No. 3) Regulations.

**From 24 March**, the Government will:

- Remove the COVID-19 provisions within the Statutory Sick Pay and Employment and Support Allowance regulations.

**From 1 April**, the Government will:

- Remove the current guidance on voluntary COVID-status certification in domestic settings and no longer recommend that certain venues use the NHS COVID Pass.
- Update guidance setting out the ongoing steps that people with COVID-19 should take to minimise contact with other people. This will align with the changes to testing.

As a result, here is a summary of what we will do at school from today:

- Keep the one-way system for entrance and exit;
- Monitor air quality in the school building;
- Keep communal spaces and classrooms well ventilated, using air cleaners where necessary;
- Maintain good hand hygiene and 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it';
- Maintain our enhanced cleaning regime;
- **Expect that if children have symptoms of COVID-19, parents/carers will take them for a PCR test and keep them at home until the results are received: if they are negative, children will return to school; if they are positive, parents/carers are expected to keep them at home for five full days and then test daily until two negative test results are received on consecutive days before returning them to school, which at the earliest would be Day 7;**
- **Expect staff to do the same;**
- If children show symptoms of COVID-19 at school, we will still contact parents/carers to collect them for a test.

As you can see, for us, very little has changed. Over the last 2 years we have become familiar with COVID-19 management; we just have to keep doing it. It's already second nature, and has become part of life: our way of



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living with the virus. If you have any questions, please contact me via the School Office, and thank you as always for your support and vigilance in making sure COVID-19 disrupts our lives as little as possible so the community feels confident and safe.

Yours sincerely

Susannah Bellingham  
Head Teacher

