



FOX HOLLIES SCHOOL
Highbury Community Campus
Queensbridge Road
Birmingham
B13 8QB

Headteacher: Sinéad Davies BA Hons PGCE M.Ed

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BSSCT

Thursday 2nd September

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all have had a healthy and happy Summer break. We look forward to welcoming back our students on Monday.

As things stand schools have been directed to return to normal, with no more bubbles. However, we will be proceeding with caution and certain measures that we put in place during the pandemic, such as staggered lunch and play times with smaller groups mingling will still be in place. Pathway 1 and Pathway 4 (middle) students will continue to have lunch in their classrooms and Pathway 2 and 3 will eat in the hall in separate sittings with their classes.

We hope to be able to invite parents in for events later in the term/year and have been advised by Public Health that attendance at such events should be based on the agreement that parents, carers and visitors have produced a negative lateral flow test that day.

Masks are no longer required in school within shared places and transport will resume without bubbles, although they are advisable in busy and crowded places. Masks are still required on public transport and therefore should continue to be worn by guides and drivers.

We are required to have a contingency plan in place should we be faced with outbreaks of covid within school. This means we may need to return to bubbles, mask-wearing and other measures to safeguard everyone. I will continue to review and update risk assessments in responses to national and public health guidance.

Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace although, given the special educational needs of our students, we may be asked to help in identifying close contacts and we do ask that you let us know if your child is a contact.





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Isolation rules have now changed

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, if they are;

- fully vaccinated
- below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- previously or currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

They will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.

We are likely to be living with covid for some time and faced with particular challenges over the Winter where we are likely to see surges in cases along with flu and other illnesses such as norovirus. The best way everyone can support us in getting through this as a school without too much disruption to another academic year is by having the vaccination and by continuing to take the lateral flow tests twice weekly.

I am advised by public health that vaccinated people are much less likely to pass the virus on to others, with a 40% - 60% reduction in transmission and vaccinated people, although still able to catch covid- are much less likely to become seriously ill with the virus.

I recognise that testing your young people with lateral flow tests twice weekly will be challenging for many of you, but if you are able to, please do so. We have plenty of these tests available in school – please let us know if you would like some sending home. Staff will continue to test twice weekly. If you are really struggling to test your child, then an added layer of protection would be for parents/carers to test regularly as this will give an indication of whether the virus is within the household.

Please don't send your child in to school if they are unwell and if they are showing any symptoms make sure they have a PCR test (not the lateral flow test). Please also let us know if they have been a contact of any positive cases.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Sinead Davies (Head teacher)

