



3.1.22

Re: Covid Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Government released new operational guidance for schools yesterday and we have updated our risk assessment to reflect these changes. The risk assessment can be viewed on our school website. I wanted to write to you before the children return to school on Wednesday so that you are aware of the current situation. The Government priority is to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health.

The following measures are already in place at Violet Way and will continue this term:

- Good hygiene routines
- Well-ventilated classrooms
- Additional cleaning of touch points during the school day
- Staff engaging with LFD testing twice per week
- [Risk assessment and Outbreak Management plan](#)
- Headteacher liaison with Local Authority as appropriate

Please be reassured that I will continue to take advice from the Government, DfE and Local Authority as required and will review our procedures and measures regularly, keeping parents informed.

The updated Government guidance for schools includes information about isolation rules, testing and face coverings and we have included some information about these below:

#### **Isolation rules and testing**

If you are fully vaccinated or aged under 18 years and 6 months you will not be required to self-isolate if you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Those identified as a close contact will be informed by NHS Test and Trace or school that they have been in close contact with a positive case and are advised to take a PCR test.

**People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.** Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing.

**From 22nd December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.** Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD

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**SOUTH TRENT**  
PARTNERSHIP



Headteacher Mrs Michelle Kee  
Violet Way, Stapenhill, Burton upon Trent,  
Staffordshire DE15 9ES

Telephone 01283 248530  
Web [www.violetway.org](http://www.violetway.org)  
Email [office@violetway.org](mailto:office@violetway.org)  
[mkee@violetway.org](mailto:mkee@violetway.org)

testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.

### **Face Coverings**

Health advice continues to be that children in primary schools should not be asked to wear face coverings. In primary schools, the Government recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and adults (including visitors) when moving around in corridors and communal areas. Face coverings do not need to be worn outside. There are no library morning sessions with parents for the first week back. They are due to commence from 10/1/2021 but we will continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed. All being well and if we can continue with the sessions in school, parents will need to wear a face covering.

### **Remote Education**

For children that are isolating or have tested positive for Covid but are not unwell, we will continue to provide remote learning. Class teachers will provide a combination of recorded lessons, Oak Academy lessons, videos and tasks for children via MS Teams (Y1 and Y2) and Tapestry (Reception). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's class teacher through the Marvellous Me app.

If there is a need to close the school or year groups, in response to Government or Local Authority advice, we will provide remote education.

Further information about Covid-19 for parents can be found on the Government website (links below).

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

[Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

### **And finally....**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at Violet Way for everything they have done in responding to the challenges of Covid-19 to keep our school open. In the face of additional challenges and pressures brought by Covid-19, I appreciate the time, commitment and dedication of all our staff to ensure the best possible education and support for our children. Parents and carers also deserve a special mention as you continue to support us as we all work together to navigate our way through an ever-changing situation. I know that our school community will continue to thrive as we work together as a team, ensuring that the children are at the forefront of everything we do.

Your faithfully,  
Mrs Kee  
Headteacher