



Gamston Church of England Voluntary Aided
Primary School
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Monday 3rd January 2022

Arrangements for the Spring Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that the past two weeks has afforded you the opportunity to spend time with your families and friends. I am aware that some of our families have had a challenging couple of weeks and that Covid infections have continued to rise across Bassetlaw over Christmas, in the same manner as they have across much of the country.

We look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on **Tuesday 4th January**. We anticipate that the coming few weeks will be tricky to navigate.

In readiness for the return, I have summarised the rules and guidance currently available and urge you to read the information below carefully. We are hopeful that we will continue to have as many children as possible who are able to attend school along with enough staff available to teach them. It is my sincere hope that we can navigate the next few weeks with as little disruption to learning as possible.

Returning to school

You may wish to help your child take an LFD test either today, or before coming to school on Tuesday. Some cases do not present with symptoms, so it is not always obvious that someone is carrying the Covid-19 infection. This will help to keep unknown cases of Covid from coming into school on the first day back.

You may have your own stock of LFT devices, but if not, some pharmacies have them available to pick up. LFD tests provide a result within 15 minutes and only require a nasal swab. Thank you for working with us on this.

Outside the school building

You may wish to wear a face covering, but this is not mandatory.

Inside the school building

Until 26th January, when a review of the government guidance will take place, access to school for parents will once more be restricted. On the occasions when parents are invited to enter the school building, a face covering must be worn at all times. Parents are welcome to come to the office window, although please could all non-essential communication be shared over the phone (01777 838631) or via the office email address (office@gamston.notts.sch.uk). Thank you for your co-operation.

Staff will wear face coverings, except when in classrooms teaching, or in their main work area. We will not be returning to bubble arrangements at this time and breakfast and after school club will continue as usual.

Remote Learning

Where children are absent because they have Covid-19 or are required to isolate for other authorised reasons, learning will continue to be available online, using a mixture of live, recorded and resource-based learning. If your child requires a device to do this on, please contact Mrs Brunyee or Mrs Nichols via the school office phone number/email and we will provide this for you immediately.

Current Covid Isolation Rules

The 10-day self-isolation period for **pupils 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.

Pupils may now take LFD tests on day 6 and 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 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.

If **a parent/pupil lives in a household where someone has tested positive**, there are different courses of action to take depending on vaccination status and age;

- ✓ If you are aged 18 years 6 months or over and you are **not fully vaccinated** (14 days after a second dose), and you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, you are legally required to stay at home and self-isolate for 10 full days.
- ✓ 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. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19 and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result.

As always, it is our absolute priority to keep our children and staff safe and for high quality daily education to carry on for every child. If you need any further information or clarification of any of the above, please don't hesitate to contact school via the office email or direct to hthomas@gamston.notts.sch.uk

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes.



Mrs Helen Thomas

Executive Headteacher