

Headteacher  
Mrs Sophie Gosden



National Support School  
designated by



National College for  
Teaching & Leadership

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021

### A school update about Covid precautions

Dear Mum, Dads and Carers,

You will have seen in the news that as the scientists predicted, Covid cases are on the rise.

We have also seen a rise in cases in the last week in school. We are lucky to have a large school site and lots of space and good ventilation which does help a bit. I am writing to you to let you know the steps we are taking to minimise the spread **whilst keeping school running normally for your children**, which is our priority and what the government guidance states schools should be doing as far as possible.

At the time of writing this, we have **not been advised** to form bubbles, to ask staff or parents to wear masks everywhere, to stagger drops off and collection or to keep children apart from other year groups all the time. We have also not been advised to stop things like PE in the gym hall or assemblies. This might change, but it is our aim to maintain normal school routines for the children until advised otherwise.

#### What we are doing:

Frequent handwashing and use of hand gel in class and between lessons

Staggered breaks as far as possible between key stages

Open windows for ventilation (although it gets chilly-please make sure jumpers and coats always come to school!!)

Staff testing frequently

Telling you when we have positive cases in school

Some older year groups thinking about how they set up tables and spacing

Being vigilant about noticing potential symptomatic cases

Asking families if possible to contact the office via phone and email

Advising you to seek PCR tests for siblings straight away if you have a positive case at home and follow the government guidance about this

Headteacher



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However, we do have to make plans just in case we are unable to staff classes safely in school due to staff isolating/being sick. This is set out below.

In the event that we do not have enough teachers and support staff to safely teach children in a year group, we will:

- Move to online learning as before in the previous lockdowns with a mixture of recorded and live lessons plus assignments that can be completed then submitted-just as before. As soon as enough staff are well enough-we will let you know so the children can come straight back.
- Arrange for resource packs to be collected by all children who for any reason cannot access online learning whilst their class/year group is closed.
- Keep in touch with you as before via phone calls/emails

To be clear, at the moment, we have only had a small amount of staff absence which means things can still run normally. We do have increasing numbers of pupils testing positive but our families are responding really responsibly and doing all they can to minimise the spread, so thank you if that has been you in recent days!

It is important that we have your latest email address and phone number. Please contact the school office via email or phone if anything has changed or if you have any further enquiries. [office@themill-tkat.org](mailto:office@themill-tkat.org) 01293 571893

Thank you for your continued support,

Kind regards,



Sophie Gosden  
Headteacher