



# Ark Elvin Academy

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022

Dear parents/carers,

On Monday (21st February), the Government set out its ongoing response to enable the country to manage COVID-19 as part of the [Living with COVID-19](#) plan. Several changes impact schools, which, although I am sure you will have read about, I wanted to share with you directly.

## **From 21<sup>st</sup> February**

Staff and students in secondary schools are no longer encouraged to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing.

We will no longer issue test kits, but families may use existing kits they have or order these for free from the Government website or your local pharmacy until 1 April.

We will stop asking visitors to take a lateral flow test before coming onsite.

## **From 24<sup>th</sup> February**

The legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test will end. As is the case at the moment, adults and children who test positive will be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least five full days and then continue to follow this guidance until they have tested negative on a lateral flow test on two consecutive days or until they have spent 10 full days at home.

Fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 will no longer be asked to test daily for seven days, and close contacts who are not fully vaccinated will not need to self-isolate.

Routine contact tracing will end.

We are expecting more guidance from the Government on contact tracing and self-isolation on Thursday and will write to you again at the end of the week. We will also update our COVID-19 risk assessment once that guidance is published.

**Ark Elvin Academy**

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## Staying safe

We can all reduce the risk of catching and passing on COVID-19 by:

- Getting vaccinated
- Letting fresh air in if meeting indoors, or meet outside
- Considering wearing a face covering in crowded, enclosed spaces.
- Taking a PCR test if you have COVID-19 symptoms, and staying at home
- Avoiding contact with other people if you test positive; and
- Washing your hands and following advice to 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it'.

I do hope the above is clear, but if you do have any questions do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Kind regards

Rebecca Curtis  
Principal