



# Ark Elvin Academy

11<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear parent/carer,

It has been great to welcome our pupils back into school at the start of this term. Our lessons are hardworking and purposeful and in many ways, it feels like business as usual. But of course, we are all doing everything we can to reduce the spread of Covid and keep our staff and pupils safe in school. I wanted to write to you with an update on the steps we are taking to keep your child safe in school and to remind you of the key changes that have been introduced this term.

### **Face coverings in classrooms**

All pupils are expected to wear face coverings in classrooms and teaching spaces, as well as in communal areas, unless they are exempt. We will let you know as soon as this changes.

### **Lateral flow tests**

Pupils must continue to test at least twice a week at home using a lateral flow test. We have plenty of test kits in school and if your child needs more, they can get them from their form tutor. Please make sure you report all your test results on the NHS website and our school website and call the school if your child tests positive.

### **Self-isolation period reduced to seven days**

Staff or children who have tested positive for COVID-19 may be able to end their isolation period after 7 days instead of 10 if they test negative on two consecutive tests, taken from day 6 of their isolation period onwards. We will contact you with more information if you inform us that your child has tested positive for COVID-19.

If your child does test positive on a lateral flow test, please keep your child at home and call the school as soon as possible. As long as your child is well enough, they should join each of their lessons online throughout their isolation period. If you have any questions about this or problems accessing the lessons online, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly.

### **PCR tests**

As from today if your child tests positive on a lateral flow test but *do not* have symptoms they do not need to take a PCR test to confirm the test result. If your child tests positive and they *do have* symptoms of any type, they should still get a PCR test to confirm that their illness is covid.

#### **Ark Elvin Academy**

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## **Close contacts and daily testing**

If your child is identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, they should take a rapid lateral flow test every day for seven days, or until ten days since their last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19 if this is earlier.

From today if a child in your son or daughter's class tests positive for covid we will text you to make sure your child does a lateral flow test daily for 7 days. They should still come to school as long as their daily lateral flow test result is negative.

## **COVID-19 Vaccine**

The government is encouraging everyone aged 12 and over to get a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, to offer them the best protection against COVID-19. More information on the importance of getting a vaccine or a booster is available on the [NHS website](#).

## **For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness.**

If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

We will continue to maintain rigorous cleaning and hygiene levels at school and do everything we can to keep everyone safe.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the school directly.

Thank you for all your support – together we can make this another great term at Elvin!

Kind regards,

Rebecca Curtis  
Principal

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