



Our Ref: LTM/kmd/covidupdate

13 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: COVID Update - School Updates following Step 3 of Government's Roadmap

Following the Government's announcements this week with regard to Step 3 of their roadmap, it was important to clarify how this will impact on the day-to-day operations of the school and what will look different from Monday, 17th May.

The details are subject to change following updates from Public Health England (PHE) resulting from any National, Regional, or Local COVID outbreaks. As a school we continue to take the safety and wellbeing of all those within our community extremely seriously and will continue to promote safe practices to protect both staff and students, ensuring that everyone remains educated with regards to the responsibilities we have to each other.

Safe Working Practices. With the exception of the use of face coverings, all our safe working practices will remain. Enhanced cleaning regimes, good respiratory hygiene (including the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach), good ventilation throughout the school, the use of a one-way system and maintaining year group bubbles will allow us to continue to minimise contacts and ensure the environment remains well sanitised. Students are encouraged to regularly wash their hands and sanitise throughout the school day and continue to be responsible with regards to contact with others.

Lateral Flow Testing. We will continue to provide all students with the Lateral Flow Testing Kits which should be used on a Sunday and Thursday evening. It is essential that results are uploaded following previous guidance and that school is notified at the earliest opportunity if a positive result is returned.

Self Isolation. Should a student develop symptoms they must immediately cease to attend school and follow government guidance. Symptoms include a new continuous cough and/or high temperature and/or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

Website Information. We continue to update the COVID section of the school website (<http://www.oldburywells.com/parent-information/covid-update>). Please refer to this section for key information.

Use of Face Coverings. The use of face coverings in school will be optional in all areas of school. We anticipate that some students will continue to use them (which will be permitted), although this will be an individual choice. We recommend that all students keep a face covering with them to use in school should a particular activity make it difficult to maintain social distancing; in this situation students may make the decision to use their covering; there may be occasions where staff recommend students wear a face covering due to the nature of an activity in school.

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Use of Face Coverings on Transport. All students are still required to wear face coverings while on public/school transport to and from school. These may be removed once exited the bus on arrival and should be in position before boarding. Seating plans remain in place and students should continue to use their allocated seat to support contact tracing.

Re-Introduction of Break Time Activities. Although split break time arrangements remain to safeguard year group bubbles, students will be able to undertake physical activity, including the use of ballgames during break and lunch. Students will have allocated areas (including where possible the use of school fields) during this time. It is important as always that students sanitise regularly and it is recommended they do this at either side of their break/lunch time slot.

Eating Zones. Students will continue to have allocated eating zones in school although they will now be permitted to eat in allocated outdoor areas, these will be communicated to students in school.

Next Steps. There are a number of further updates scheduled, including the re-introduction of morning tutor time, setting of school day times and re-introduction of a range of activities which have until this stage not been permitted. Students will continue to receive updates on this.

Our aim is to gradually reset all elements of the school day as we move towards the next key date of 21st June and ensure that what students experience in school is in line with national guidance.

We look forward to continuing to support all students in school and thank you for your continued support

Yours faithfully



Lee Tristham
Headteacher