



22 April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to inform you of the most recent government guidance for managing COVID-19 in educational and childcare settings. On Tuesday 29 March, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Sajid Javid, set out the [next steps for living with COVID-19](#) in England from Friday 1 April.

The key points from the updated guidance advises as follows:

- adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature
- children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend
- adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days
- Free COVID-19 tests will continue to be available for specific groups, including eligible patients and NHS staff, once the universal testing offer ends on Friday 1 April.

For education and childcare settings from Friday 1 April:

- regular asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended in any education or childcare setting, including in SEND, alternative provision and children's social care settings. Therefore, settings will no longer be able to order test kits.

The updated guidance provides clarity with regard to expectations about attending educational settings. Whilst attendance rates at Vyners have remained above the national averages throughout the past two years, we are now at the point where we should be getting closer to pre-pandemic levels, which exceeded 95%. Students should now attend school if they have minor ailments (such as minor coughs, colds, headaches and sore throats) unless they have a high temperature and may return to school when their temperature returns to normal. In addition, students can return to school three full days after a positive test.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that family holidays should not take place during term time even if they were postponed because of reasons related to the pandemic. These holidays cause significant disruption to education regardless of a child's previous attendance record.

Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any queries or concerns then please do not hesitate to contact your child's Year Leader.

Yours sincerely

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