

1st November 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Important update on control measures

I am writing to let you know that the Doncaster Public Health Team has issued updated guidance to schools considering case rates in the area and the impact on local health services.

Local change to rules on household contacts

Doncaster Public Health have advised that, in this period of high cases in our local area, if someone in your household has tested positive for Covid 19 using an LFD or PCR test, that pupils/ students should stay at home and complete the following steps:

- **If your child develops symptoms on day 1 or 2 they should get a PCR test straight away**
- **If they don't have symptoms, they should get a PCR test 3-5 days after their household member started with symptoms (or took a test if they had no symptoms)**
- **If this test is negative, the child can return to school and complete LFD tests for the remaining isolation period of the household member**
- **If the child develops symptoms at a later date, they must stay at home and PCR test again.**

This applies to primary and secondary age children unless your child has tested positive for Covid 19 via PCR in the past 90 days or has had at least one dose of the vaccine more than 14 days ago.

If your child needs to stay at home under these rules, please let us know via info@gliacademy.org.uk or ring 01302 868378 and we will work with you to provide them with high quality remote learning materials.

As you know, since the return to school in September, we have continued to provide high quality face to face education for our pupils/ students, delivering inspiring learning opportunities and experiences for your child, while following national guidance on Covid control measures. We will continue to:

- Strongly encourage all staff to complete twice weekly LFD tests.
- Maximise ventilation of classrooms
- Carry out additional cleaning, with a focus on frequently touched surfaces
- Use fogging machines to clean communal areas and classrooms on a rota basis
- Carry out activities such as PE outside, as much as possible
- Encourage hand and respiratory hygiene amongst staff and pupils.
- Advise visitors to stay away if they have any symptoms.

In light of the new local public health advice, we are also stepping up our in-school control measures for a two-week period in the first instance. The enhanced measures we will put in place from tomorrow, Tuesday 2nd November are:

- Pupils/ Students will remain in their year group at break times, as much as possible
- Pupils/ Students will remain in their year group at lunch times, as much as possible.
- Staff will wear face coverings in communal areas and when moving around the academy

We will operate these enhanced arrangements for a two-week period, subject to regular review, until Monday 15 November. I have also attached some answers to questions that I think will naturally be asked once parents/carers read this letter. If you do have further questions, please do not hesitate to phone. We will write to you before the 15th of November with an update on our plans

We are looking forward to an exciting half term of learning and celebration in our school. Thank you for your continued understanding and support.

Kind regards



Mrs L.A. Chappell
Principal

1. Have the school times changed?

No, nursery times remain the same and so do the start and end of school times.

2. Have the pickup and collection points changed?

If you are a parent of a year 2 child, we are asking if you could use the back gate on King George's Road into school as this will help reduce the amount of people accessing the front of school. Also, as we have nursery and reception both leaving at the same time of 3pm, nursery staff are happy for any families wishing to avoid the gathering outside of school to collect their child from 2.50pm onwards.

3. Is 7.30/8am breakfast club still available?

Yes, we shall section off the breakfast club into year groups just like we did as lockdown eased.

4. Will you still have wrap around care 4pm/5pm club?

Yes, again the children will have a year group area, but childcare remains available.

5. My child is in an afterschool club this half term (Kixx, Taekwondo, Film, Art etc) will this still be going ahead?

Yes, but we shall be asking the coaches to keep the children in their year group bubbles in the club wherever possible or take the club outdoors. Please ensure your child has suitable clothing for activities outside should the weather permit.

6. I have paid for my child to take part in a club this half term but now I know about the local guidance, I have changed my mind. Can I get a refund?

Due to the circumstances, we will be happy to provide a refund, please telephone the office to arrange.

7. Will this affect lunchtimes?

Where possible we shall continue to use the hall for lunchtimes, however as we need to ensure there is a clear gap between year groups with cleaning in between, we may struggle to fit nursery through to year 2 in the time we have. Should this be the case children in year 2 may have to have dinner in the classrooms. This will not affect their meal choices.

8. Can I still talk to my child's teacher if I need to?

Our teachers are still available to talk to you, but we would prefer if this could be by prior appointment or through a phone call as we are encouraging social distancing during this time.

9. Will my child be bringing reading books, water bottles, bags etc back and forth to school as normal?

We have not been advised of any changes to this, but we do ask that non-school essentials to be left at home please.

10. Can I call around to the office if I need to?

Please consider phoning or emailing first. The office will be restricting the number of essential visitors into the reception area so please be patient if there is already someone being seen to.