

Grove Street Primary and Nursery School



Grove Street, New Ferry, CH62 5BA

Headteacher: Mrs L Walsh

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Dear Parent/Carer

We currently have a small number of cases of COVID-19 within our school that may have been spread on-site. A slight increase in cases was entirely expected once the new term began and I would like to reassure you that we are carrying out all of the required safety measures.

It is well-established that there is a very low risk and rate of severe illness in children from COVID-19 and that the benefits of attending school continues to hugely outweigh the health risk to children.

It is no longer national policy to self-isolate school pupils unless they have symptoms of COVID-19 or have tested positive for COVID-19. The previous system of identifying large numbers of school contacts and sending them home to self-isolate for 10 days at a time no longer exists. Under current national policy, disrupting normal education for reasons linked to COVID-19 will be a last resort and will very rarely be required.

With this in mind, I would like to remind you of the following:

- The vast majority of people (children and adults) are currently catching COVID-19 through household and social contact. Household transmission currently accounts for 40% of all COVID-19 cases. Whilst some transmission inevitably takes place in schools, they are not the main drivers of infection and more often than not, are dealing with the implications of community-based infection. Therefore, if your child has any of the main COVID-19 symptoms (a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste), they should not attend school and should stay at home and get a PCR test. If your child has symptoms, they **MUST** stay at home until they get the result of the PCR test. If the test is negative, they should come back to school as normal.
- If your child has been identified as a close contact of a case (but has no symptoms), you will be informed by NHS Test & Trace and not your child's school. NHS Test & Trace will advise that your child takes a PCR test. They will not have to self-isolate unless they have a positive PCR test result.
- Whilst it is still not recommended that primary age pupils undertake regular asymptomatic (without symptoms) home-testing for COVID-19, we would strongly encourage you as parents and carers to do so. Any positive LFD tests amongst

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adults or older children in your household would show that there is an increased risk of infection passing to the younger child and would allow for you and us to look out for symptoms in that child.

Please bear with us while we adjust to the current national policy for responding to COVID-19 in schools. In general, we no longer need to implement the long list of restrictions that we have been operating under since the start of the pandemic, so whilst you may feel that the school is not doing enough to prevent infection, we continue with the essentials required of us (eg good hygiene, cleaning regimes, keeping our spaces as well-ventilated as possible). In the event of an outbreak of COVID-19 in our school, we work closely with our local public health colleagues to make sure that respond in an appropriate way. We must, however, get the balance right between sensible prevention measures and getting back to normal education.

Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation.