



# Edgewood Primary School

**Building skills and values for life**

## Arrangements for the last week of summer term

Thank you all for all your help and support in keeping the children and staff at Edgewood as safe as possible during another difficult year.

**In the last week of school, we will be following the consensus of the vast majority of schools locally and nationally in keeping the current measures in place.** It seems ridiculous to drop our guard as cases in the community are surging and the last thing I want is to have to close further bubbles in the last week of term and increase the chances of families having to isolate at the start of the summer holidays.

As the government wishes to move to a position of individual businesses, organisations and members of society taking their own responsibility for protecting the health of themselves and others, I hope you will help us by continuing to adhere to the measures we have put in place for one more week.

We will be relaxing measures slightly to allow transition visits for pupils so they can meet their teacher for next year and also to allow Year 6 to mix with their fellow Year 6 pupils before they leave our school.

However, to reduce risk, the transition visits will be done outside to minimise the chance of transmission and the Year 6 children will be formed into a new Year 6 bubble for the Leavers' party and final two days to prevent the whole of Years 5 and 6 being identified as close contacts should we have a positive case.

The pages at the bottom of this letter are from the Department for Education about how contact tracing will happen from the 19<sup>th</sup> July. In school, for the rest of this term when bubbles are operating we are advised to still close them if there is a positive case to reduce the chance of infection spreading within school.

### **September 2021**

When asking us to plan for the next academic year, the government have advised we can drop individual bubbles and a number of other measures but we must plan for the possible need to reintroduce them if required. As such there will be some elements of the way we have worked this year that we will keep into next year but these will be done to minimise disruption to learning and to families.

Some of the things will include; children attending in school PE kit on the days they have PE, regular hand washing before and during school, enhanced cleaning regimes around school, increased ventilation of classroom and other spaces.

We will send a letter next week confirming all the arrangements and timings for September so you are fully prepared for September.

Please remember **children will return to school on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021.**

Once again, thank you to all of you who have supported the school in keeping everyone safe, worked so hard when your children have been home educating or in supporting them with homework to catch up upon their return and the myriad of other ways you have helped the pupils and staff at school this year.

It has been another unprecedented year and I hope next year, while probably not a total return to everything, will see a much more normal year for everyone involved with Edgewood.

Yours faithfully,

Ed Seeley  
Headteacher.

## Letter to parents, carers or guardians

Dear parent/carer/guardian,

### Re: Changes to contact tracing in education and childcare settings

As you know, the Prime Minister announced on 12 July that Step 4 of the roadmap would go ahead on 19 July.

One of the key changes that will take place from 19 July is that education and childcare settings will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case – or in the case of children – the parents, carers or guardian of the positive case to identify close contacts.

NHS Test and Trace already manages the contact tracing process for the rest of society – including children who have recorded a positive PCR test – and has expertise in supporting people to identify close contacts.

This letter sets out in more detail below how that process will work and what you need to do if your child tests positive for COVID-19.

#### Self-isolating and taking a test

1. If your child has symptoms, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a PCR test for them. If the PCR result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, they, other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.
2. If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the confirmatory PCR test is positive (or is taken more than two days after the LFD), other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the LFD test.
3. PCR tests can be booked online through the [NHS Test & Trace website](#) or by calling 119.
4. PCR test results will be recorded with NHS Test and Trace automatically, but you should also communicate the result to the education or childcare setting during term time or summer provision.

#### Contact tracing

5. If your child gets a positive PCR test result, NHS Test and Trace will contact you, using the details you registered when ordering the PCR test. You and/or your child will be asked a series of specific questions designed to identify who your child has been in close contact with. Being in an education or childcare setting with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact.
6. You will be asked to provide the contact details, if you know them, of any of the individuals – or their parents or guardians – who have been identified as close contacts. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch with these close contacts and provide appropriate instructions or advice (see below).

#### Self-isolation and/or testing of close contacts

7. At present, anyone identified as a close contact is legally required to self-isolate and must not attend their education or childcare setting (the only exception is if they are participating in a daily contact testing trial). Anyone identified as a non-household close contact by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of their most recent contact with that person. If they live

in the same household, they must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of that person developing symptoms (see point 1 above) or, if that person was asymptomatic, the date of their test (see point 2 above). NHS Test and Trace will notify you of the day on which the self-isolation period ends.

8. Close contacts are also advised to take a PCR test. If the test result is negative, they must still complete the full self-isolation period, as the test will not detect all positive cases. If the result is positive, they will need to self-isolate for a further 10 days – and NHS Test and Trace will contact them to identify any close contacts.

9. **From 16 August**, if the close contact is under 18, they will not have to self-isolate (in line with the policy for fully vaccinated adults) but will be asked to take an PCR test immediately, other than for very young children identified as non-household contacts, and they will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test. If the PCR test is positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch to identify close contacts (see points 5 and 6 above). Further guidance on these changes to self-isolation will be provided shortly.

We recognise how difficult the past 18 months have been and the sacrifices that all families, education and childcare settings have had to make. This has been an enormously challenging time for everyone and we would like to take the opportunity to thank you for everything you have done.