

27<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Re: COVID-19 changes for schools this academic year

From 19th July, schools were no longer required to conduct routine contact tracing - the Headteacher does not send the rest of the class/close contacts home to isolate after contact with a positive case.

As with positive cases in any other settings, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case – or in the case of children – the parents and carers 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.

NHS Test and Trace want parents/carers to be aware that from this new school year, just being in an education setting with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact.

From September, we will start to reintegrate as a school and we no longer have to have separate bubbles for each year group. We can start mixing at lunchtimes, in the playground and have assemblies.

We will continue frequent handwashing and children can bring antibacterial hand wash to school. We will continue our extra cleaning routine, where high touch points and toilets are cleaned throughout the school day. As advised, we will keep all indoor areas well ventilated and take learning outside whenever we can. Staff will continue to test twice weekly with LFTs.

If your child displays any symptoms of COVID- 19 (and with the Delta variant, beware as these can include headaches and common 'cold' like symptoms), then please keep them off school and access testing. If we call you to collect your child please do so promptly. We also ask that you do not argue with us about this – keeping children in school is our number one priority – which is why we ask you to collect and get your child tested as quickly as possible. You should not use LFTs with primary aged pupils with symptoms; LFTs are for asymptomatic family members. **Your child must have a PCR test.** This can be booked online through the NHS Test & Trace website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/get-tested-for-coronavirus/> or by calling 119, with our nearest test centre at Michael Flanders centre, Community Centre W3 8PP.

If the PCR test is positive, you child must isolate for 10 days since their first symptom or from the test day (with test day as day zero). You must keep them off school if they have symptoms until you get the result and you must inform school of the result by emailing the result to us on [admin@west-acton.ealing.sch.uk](mailto:admin@west-acton.ealing.sch.uk).

If positive, NHS Track and Trace will help you to identify close contacts. From 16th August, if the close contact is under 18 or a double vaccinated adult, they do not have to self-isolate but all close contacts will be asked to take a PCR test as soon as possible. However, close contacts will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test. If the PCR test turns out to be positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test.

Therefore, from September, we will not be sending home bubbles of pupils/staff due to a positive case. I will inform you if a close contact to your child has tested positive though and advise you to get a PCR test for your child.

Please do be aware that if we have a significant number of COVID-19 cases then Public Health can put 'bubble' and other restrictions back in place immediately.

We continue to ask that you do not enter school buildings without permission. There may also be times over this year when we ask you when entering the school buildings, to wear a face covering so we can all stay safe and keep school open. Please email or telephone the school office if you need to contact us.

We look forward to continuing to work to keep our school community safe for the new academic year.

Yours faithfully,

**Karen Kondo**  
**Headteacher**

**William Rollason**  
**Chair of Governors**