

15th October 2021

Dear parent/carer,

On 26th September, I wrote to you giving details of enhanced protective measures we felt we needed to put in place to bring the rate of transmission of COVID-19 in school down. Each Friday since, we have reviewed positive cases in school and evaluated whether to maintain these enhanced measures or remove some or all of them back in-line with current DfE and Public Health guidance for schools.

I am extremely pleased to say, that following two weeks of minimal positive cases in school, we feel it is now appropriate to start removing some of these enhanced protective measures. This will be done cautiously, with some measures remaining in place and as you would expect, we will monitor closely and continue to review positive cases, re-introducing measures again if necessary. The changes we are making today will take effect from **Monday 18th October** and will further help the children and staff to return to a 'normal' way of working in school, ensuring our education offer to the children is the best it can be.

From Monday 18th October:

*Children will no longer sit in front facing rows and normal table layouts and classroom organisation will resume.

*Teachers will no longer minimise the amount of movement the children do within the classroom, they will be able to move more freely between groups and complete activities in a place other than their desk.

*The formal implementation of social distancing and the 2m+ rule will be removed; however, staff have been asked to apply common sense and not go within 2m of any other adults or children unless they need to.

Enhanced measures remaining in place:

*Face coverings are to be worn by all staff who are not medically exempt, particularly whilst working closely with children or moving around communal areas. **PLEASE NOTE: If positive cases remain low / at zero, we are planning to remove the expectation of staff to wear face coverings from Tuesday 2nd November when we return after October half term.**

*Class teachers will maintain a consistent seating plan for all lessons in classrooms.

Measures in-line with DfE / Public Health guidance that remain in all schools:

*Hand hygiene measures continue to be to an extremely high standard, with staff physically witnessing children washing / sanitising at those key points throughout the day.

*Ventilation - doors and windows, external where possible to remain open.

*Cleaning procedures continue to be to an extremely high standard, with enhanced cleaning measures in place.

*Testing – staff continue to take part in the twice weekly LFD testing. Parents/carers are encouraged to take part in this also.

*Natural separation points within the school day – there are some key times within the school day, where younger pupils take breaks and access areas of school at a different time to older pupils, this has been the case for many years at Aston Hall. KS1 have a separate morning breaktime, eat in the hall together as a key stage and finish the school day 10 minutes earlier than KS2. These normal school routines will continue and help to support our revised approach.

As you can see, staff within school remain committed to doing all we can to keep our school community safe, whilst still offering that irreplaceable learning opportunity in the children's classroom with their friends taking part in a range of wonderful experiences and activities.

I know, as a parent of two young children myself, what a challenging time this continues to be. We thank you for your continued support, and as always, if you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Many thanks,



Mr Holmes
Headteacher