



Tudor Grange Primary Academy
Yew Tree

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Head of School: Mrs R Bloomfield

RB/smm/Coronavirus – Welcome Letter Sept 2021

2nd September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope everyone has managed to enjoy a summer break and you have been able to take advantage of the freedoms we have begun to enjoy again.

There have been many government communications over the summer regarding the stages of the road map to take the country out of lockdown. This letter updates you on the guidance that has been provided to schools for September and confirms the arrangements for the start of term.

COVID-19 control measures in school

As you are already aware, some measures that were in place to control the spread of the virus have now been lifted. The guidance schools are now following can be found [here](#), we are very pleased that school will be able to operate much more closely to normal from the start of term, but we will still need to remain very vigilant and do all that we can to contain the spread of the virus as we all return.

There are key measures that are no longer in place:

- We will **not** be operating consistent groups / bubbles as this is no longer required, social distancing requirements have been removed.
- We will **not be conducting contact tracing**, close contacts will be identified through track and trace, schools will only be asked to support contact tracing in exceptional circumstances.
- Children under 18 years and 6 months **will not be required to isolate** if they are identified as a close contact through track and trace.
- Face coverings will **no longer be mandatory**. If any member of our community wishes to continue to wear a face covering then they are able to do so.

Key control measures that we will continue to use are:

- Continuing with the good hygiene routines supported by using the sanitiser stations in place around the school.
- Maintaining the extra cleaning we already have in place.
- Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.

'The School's work to keep pupils safe and secure is good'. Ofsted. All in our community are serious about safeguarding. It is our priority.



- Following any PHE advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- Maintaining the facility to immediately isolate an individual with symptoms.
- Asking all staff to complete a twice weekly LFD test (this will be reviewed by the Government at the end of September).

Class teachers will remind pupils about these control measures when they return to school. This will include a verbal health check at the start of each day to ensure that pupils are not displaying symptoms. If they are, we will make contact with you to ask you to book a PCR test or to confirm that they have received a negative test result.

What we will do if there are increasing numbers of positive cases in the school

We will record any individual positive cases in school and monitor for any emerging patterns following the Government guidance (which can be found [here](#)). Although schools are not required to inform parents where there are positive cases in school, it is our intention to continue to inform you of any positive cases on a weekly basis.

If we think that the number of cases we are recording poses a risk that we have transmission in school, we will escalate our concerns to public health and plan the actions that we need to take to control this, this will include considering measures such as reintroducing the use of face coverings for a short time; restricting visitors to site and as a very last resort, moving to remote learning for some pupils. We have plans in place that mean we can respond quickly to an outbreak and we will always follow the advice of Public Health officials.

You will receive a communication immediately if we have a concerning number of cases in school and there is a need to take action.

What you need to do

Please support us by ensuring that you are taking the actions that you can to help to minimise spread of the virus, the Government have produced an easy to read summary document [here](#).

The most important advice we need you to follow continues to be to keep your child at home, self-isolate and get a PCR test straight away if you experience any of these symptoms:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

You will be contacted by NHS track and trace if your child has been identified as a close contact. If your child is asked to take a PCR test and the result is negative, they are under 18 years and 6 months old and they do not have symptoms, then they will be able to return to school as normal. They will be asked to follow advice on preventing the spread of the virus and they will be asked to consider limiting their contact with people who are at higher risk from COVID-19.

Organisation of the school day

The class register is taken promptly at 8:55 am. The KS1 and KS2 children are welcome to enter their classroom from 8:40 am as we have found that the pupils have enjoyed a calmer start to their day. Reception and Nursery children are advised to arrive no earlier than 8:50 am. Pupils arriving after 8:55 am will be marked late and parents will be required to sign them in at the main school office.

We will be returning to our traditional home time collection arrangements. The school day for children in Reception (Rowan), Year 1 (Willow) and Year 2 (Maple) will end at 3:10 pm and the school day for children in Year 3 (Poplar), Year 4 (Elm), Year 5 (Sycamore) and Year 6 (Oak) will end at 3:15 pm. We are looking forward to welcoming you onto the school playgrounds to collect your child or children from their classroom or cloakroom door. If you are unsure where to go, Miss Williams, Mrs Parsons and I will be able to guide you at home time. If your child is in Year 5 (Sycamore) and Year 6 (Oak), I would like you to wait for your child on the main playground rather than the cloakroom door as this area can become very congested. The school carpark will remain closed at the start and end of the school day as we found our one way system worked well for pedestrians entering and exiting the school site safely.

All pupils will require correct school uniform to begin the term. Full information can be found on <https://www.yewtree.tgacademy.org.uk/parents/uniform/>. I am aware that there have been difficulties purchasing school blazers. Please do not worry if your child does not have a blazer on the first day back due to this problem.

You have been wonderful in your support over the last eighteen months as we have all worked together to keep our community as safe as possible. I know I can rely on this continuing as we enter this new phase and, hopefully, the final stages of the pandemic. If there have been any changes to the welfare, health and wellbeing of your child/children, please inform me as soon as possible by email at office@yewtree.tgacademy.org.uk.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming everyone back.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs R Bloomfield
Head of School