



Western Learning Federation

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Pennaeth Gweithredol/Executive Headteacher: **Mr Wayne Murphy BA (Hons), MA SEN, PGCE**

7th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Changes to contact tracing and self-isolation from 6th September 2021

I hope you and your child have enjoyed the summer break.

As we return to school, there are some new arrangements in place when someone tests positive for COVID-19. These changes have been made possible by the vaccination programme and the significant reduction in numbers being hospitalised and suffering severe illness due to COVID-19 over recent months.

Following on from my previous letter at the end of the summer term Riverbank, Ty Gwyn and Woodlands will continue with the measures that were in place during the summer term. We will remain in our consistent groups, we will use appropriate use of PPE (this includes use of face coverings) and we will follow our whole school Covid risk assessments closely.

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 using a PCR test, NHS Test, Trace, Protect (TTP) will contact you, using the details provided when the PCR test was ordered. They will ask questions designed to identify recent close contacts of your child, and for contact details - if you know them - of the individual or their parent/guardian. TTP will then get in touch with these close contacts to provide instructions or advice. **The schools will also provide support and guidance should you have any questions or queries.**

Those who are under 18 or fully vaccinated are no longer required to self-isolate if they are identified as close contacts. But they will be contacted to let them know that they've been in close contact with someone who has tested positive. They will also be offered two PCR tests and provided with information and advice on how to minimise the risks of onward spread. If your child is identified as a close contact, they can still attend school unless they develop symptoms or are advised otherwise by TTP. Please continue to let us know if your child tests positive.

The guidance states that, if a child tests positive, only a minority of their classmates will be identified as close contacts. Although if there is a pattern of cases TTP may ask us to update you on the situation and remind you of key steps, including advising you to keep an eye out for new symptoms your child may develop, and to stay away from vulnerable family and friends in the short-term. **However, please contact the school and we will support you in making the right decisions, based on the vulnerability of our pupils.**

We do expect that there will be cases of COVID-19 across our community over the coming weeks, but this does not mean that COVID-19 is spreading within the schools. Please continue to be vigilant for symptoms. If you are in any doubt, order a PCR test for your child at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by calling 119.

Anyone with symptoms - a new continuous cough, fever or high temperature or loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste - should remain in self-isolation until the test result is known. You can find the latest information on self-isolation arrangements at www.gov.wales/self-isolation.

We recognise how difficult the past 18 months have been and the sacrifices that all families have had to make. Thank you for everything you have done to support your child and our school.

We look forward to welcoming our pupils back into our Federation and individual school settings.

Yours sincerely,

Mr W A Murphy

Executive Head Teacher- Western Learning Federation