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Dear Parents,

As we enter the next stage of the Government's 'Living with Covid' strategy, there are several changes to national guidance which affect our pupils, their families and our staff. We are immensely grateful to our families for their support during the pandemic and hope that the following summary of the guidance provides a clear reference point for us all in the weeks ahead. It is our sincere hope that as we learn to live with Covid, we can continue to protect each other from transmitting the virus whilst also returning to many of the more usual events and activities we all enjoy in school.

The Department for Education has stated that most of the school-specific coronavirus guidance has been withdrawn on 1st April, as well as previous guidance for the general public. Free coronavirus tests will no longer be available apart from for specific groups in society, but not for schools or their staff. From 1st April, regular asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended for any education setting.

The latest guidance sets out actions to help reduce the risk of catching and spreading coronavirus

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has published new guidance that applies from 1st April:

- [Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19](#)
- [People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19](#)

The UKHSA's 'Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19' guidance sets out several actions that will help to reduce the risk of catching and spreading infection. These actions apply to everyone and are as follows:

- Get vaccinated (if possible)
- Keep indoor areas well ventilated by letting fresh air in
- Remember the basics of good hygiene
- Wear a face covering if you have symptoms or have tested positive

School procedures

Along with the new national guidance, St. Peter's will continue to promote good hygiene for pupils and staff, promote good ventilation in classrooms and provide enhanced cleaning throughout the school day. Where clusters of positive cases are established, further measures may be introduced by the local Health Protection Team or the UKHSA, as required.

People with a confirmed case of coronavirus should also stay at home

- ✓ If an adult tests positive for coronavirus, they should stay at home and avoid contact with others for five full days after the test was taken. Individuals who are positive no longer need two negative tests to exit isolation.
- ✓ Children and young people under 18 who test positive should stay at home for three full days after the test was taken **and** until they no longer have a high temperature. The day the test was taken counts as Day 0 and is not included in the three full days for staying at home.
- ✓ Children and young people who live with someone who has a confirmed case of coronavirus should continue to attend school as normal.

Symptoms

Parents are asked to note that the Omicron variant of Covid-19 is presenting very differently in children to the main symptoms of coronavirus, as described by the government.

Main symptoms

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

Precautionary symptoms

Many people with coronavirus have other symptoms such as.

- Headaches
- Aches and pains
- Feeling very tired for no good reason
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Sometimes 'tummy ache' in children

People with symptoms should stay at home and avoid contact with other people

Adults who have symptoms of a respiratory infection, including coronavirus symptoms, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities **and** no longer have a high temperature.

For children and young people who have symptoms of a respiratory infection, they too should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They should do this until they feel well enough to resume normal activities **and** no longer have a high temperature. They can also return to school when they feel well enough to attend and no longer have a high temperature.

New advice covers actions that will reduce the chance of spreading infection

The UKHSA has also provided advice on actions that symptomatic individuals, or individuals with a confirmed case of coronavirus, can take if they do leave the house while they are infectious. These actions include:

- Wearing a face covering.
- Avoiding crowded places such as public transport or large social gatherings.
- Avoiding areas that are enclosed or poorly ventilated.
- Avoiding close contact with other people.
- Covering your mouth and nose when you sneeze and cough.
- Washing your hands frequently with soap and water or hand sanitiser.

These actions also apply to those trying to reduce the spread of infection within their homes.

Further information and health advice can be found at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

If you have any questions about this guidance or how it applies to your family, please contact the academy office who will be happy to help.

Yours sincerely,

Wmstevens

Mr W Stevens

Headteacher

