



Plaistow and Kirdford Primary School
Plaistow
Billingshurst
West Sussex
RH14 0PX

Tel: 01403 871275 Fax: 01403 871470

Email: office@plaistowkirdford.com

Website: www.plaistowandkirdford.org

Headteacher: Mr C King

2nd March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been a milestone week at Plaistow and Kirdford. For the first time since Friday 20th March 2020 we held a school assembly in our school hall. It was quite possibly one of the most exciting and joyous things I have done in my twenty year career as a teacher.

As the term began we began adapting what we do at school to reflect the easing of restrictions while doing everything we can to keep our community safe and over the half term we heard the government's announcements that the final measures are to be removed. I cannot emphasise enough how much we have valued your support and understanding throughout not only this term but the whole of the pandemic.

In school now, the vast majority of measures have been removed. We are still maintaining an enhanced cleaning regime, we are still seeking to maximise our ventilation and children are still washing their hands on a more regular basis.

For our staff team, they have the personal choice to wear a face mask in communal areas and they are encouraged to take part in regular lateral flow testing while we have a stock of tests at school.

There are changes for families as well. If someone tests positive on a lateral flow device, there is still no need for a confirmatory PCR test. What has changed though, is that close contacts do not need to do daily tests unless they develop symptoms. PCR testing is expected to end at the end of March.

If a child has tested positive they can return to school and end their isolation from day 6 if they have had two negative LFT results 24 hours apart. However, guidance currently says that unless they have tested negative they cannot return to school until they have finished their tenth day of self isolation.

[Guidance for self-isolation](#)

We would now expect all children who test positive for covid-19 to remain off school for a minimum of five days and a maximum of 10. Siblings and close contacts should come to school as usual, we will not be able to authorise the absence of a close contact in most instances.

From April, with the removal of PCR testing, it is unclear how families or school will know whether or not a child has covid. As such, we would ask that if children develop covid compatible symptoms that they are kept home until they are symptom free.

We have worked with governors to update our attendance policy to reflect these changes.

Additionally, from next week we will be removing the staggered finish to the end of the school day. School gates will open at 3.20pm for all families and all classes will be dismissed at 3.30pm. This will mean that families are able to more quickly collect their children and that younger children will not need to wait to be collected with their older siblings or wait longer for the school buses.

We are all excited about the prospects of moving forwards away from the measures we have had to put in place over the past two years. Our staff team are already buzzing about our Key Stage Two





production, there is excitement at being able to have families in for our Egg Roll at the end of this term and families join us for a picnic on our Sports' Day. Don't tell the children but I was already speaking with PAKSA about the chances of a disco evening for our children!

Please be assured though, that the safety, health and well-being of our children remains at the core of what we do at school. We will continue to put our non-obtrusive measures in place and work closely with our local health protection teams.

Once again, thank you for all of your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr King

