



The Blagreaves Federation

Ridgeway Infant & Gayton Junior Schools



Date

Covid-19 Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are sure that you are now aware that 1st April sees us begin a life without Covid-19 restrictions, however, as schools, we still have a duty of care to staff and children. With this in mind, please find below details of what these changes will look like at Ridgeway and Gayton schools.

Face Coverings

Whilst these are no longer required, we'd recommend parents/carers wear them in crowded spaces, for example in the jitty or at the end of school collection.

Testing

While tests are freely available, we continue to recommend that children over 5 years old and staff test regularly using lateral flow tests.

We are required to follow the DfE guidance for schools which states that **“if you have any of these symptoms, you should order a PCR test. You are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people while you are waiting for the result. If you have Covid-19 you should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. You may choose to take a lateral flow test from 5 days after your symptoms started followed by another test the next day. If both these test results are negative and you do not have a high temperature the risk that you are still infectious is much lower and you can safely return to your normal routine or to school.”**

You can find this guidance at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts>

If a positive result is received on a lateral flow test, please follow the guidance above. Although your child may be symptom free, others might not be so lucky and continued attendance while knowingly positive poses a significant risk to others.

If you do not use lateral flow tests from day 5, self-isolation will remain 10 days. If lateral flow tests continue to show a positive result, self-isolation can end on day 10 as long as no high temperature remains.

If your child has Covid-19 symptoms but you choose not to get a test, they will need to remain at home for 10 days. If you wish to return them sooner, you will need a symptomatic PCR (not Lateral Flow) to confirm it is not Covid-19. This is to ensure the continued safety of other pupils, staff and their families. You can find this guidance here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/#:~:text=If%20you've%20tested%20positive,isolate%20for%2010%20full%20days>.

Please do continue to provide us with a copy of the email/text message after reporting test results to confirm the absence reason. We will also continue to provide remote learning for Covid-19 absence periods, if children are well enough to participate.

Isolation



The Blagreaves Federation

Ridgeway Infant & Gayton Junior Schools



There is no change in the self-isolation advice for positive cases, just to the law enforcing that advice. For schools, this places Covid-19 on the same level as the current policy in place for when children have other infectious or potentially infectious illnesses – such as Chicken Pox or vomiting/diarrhoea.

These require children to be clear of symptoms for a fixed period of time before returning to school (for example, for vomiting/diarrhoea this is 48 hours clear).

Although we hope to see case numbers falling in the coming weeks, there is still the very real risk that we will continue to experience outbreaks in our schools. We ask that families adhere to the guidance outlined above so that we can avoid any class closures as a result of insufficient staffing. We will continue to implement appropriate ventilation, cleaning and hygiene routines to support this.

What to do if...	Guidance
No symptoms	Recommend regular asymptomatic testing as long as LFD tests are freely available
Symptoms	PCR test Or self-isolate for 10 days
Positive test (PCR or LFD)	Self-isolate for 10 days OR Any time after day 5, 2 x negative LFD test results 24 hours apart AND No high temperature remains
Household Positive Case	Attend school as normal Remain vigilant looking for symptoms starting

Other Illnesses

As before, children do not learn well if they are unwell in themselves. Please avoid spreading illness to others and keep your child at home if they are unwell. This website may be helpful:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

We know that there will be changes to come in regards to testing and isolation rules: we will keep you updated on how these will affect school life going forward.

We are proud of the way our school communities, children, staff and parents/carers - but particularly the children – have navigated the difficulties and challenges of the last two years, and we are confident that whatever comes next, we will continue to work together to ensure our children continue to flourish.

Thank you for your understanding and support. As ever, if you have any specific concerns, please do get in touch and we will do our best to help.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs J Hill
Headteacher
Gayton Junior School

Mrs T Dale
Headteacher
Ridgeway Infant School