

ELVINGTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

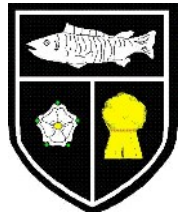
'Working Together We Can All Achieve Success'

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Headteacher – Mr. Andrew Buttery BA (HONS), PGCE, NPQH



Tuesday 6th July 2021

Schools COVID-19 Operational Guidance

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I am sure you are aware, the DfE have recently released a document entitled Schools COVID-19 Operational Guidance (www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak).

The aforementioned guidance explains the Government's approach to how schools will function as the country moves to Step 4 of the roadmap. It is exceptionally important to stress at this point, that these modifications will not be implemented at Elvington Church of England Primary School, until the start of the new academic year in September. COVID-19 infections are increasing at a rapid rate locally, as a result the current protocols will remain until Friday 23rd July 2021.

Mixing and 'bubbles'

The DfE will no longer recommend that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). Consequently, this will mean that staggered drop off and collection will no longer be required when the new academic year commences on Tuesday 7th September 2021.

As a result of COVID-19 preventative measures, it has been a significant amount of time since 'standard' school hours operated. In fact our EFYS children have never attended school outside of this challenging period. Please follow this link: www.elvingtonprimary.org.uk/parents-carers/times-of-the-school-day, to refresh yourself with the timetable we will follow from September.

The document also states the following: *"this means that assemblies can resume, and you no longer need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch"*.

Tracing Close Contacts and Isolation

From 16th August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case.

Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.

Face Coverings

From Step 4, face coverings will no longer be advised for staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.

"I have come in order that you may have life – life in all its fullness." John 10:10

Parents/carers will be free to choose if they would like to wear a face covering at drop off/collection.

Control Measures

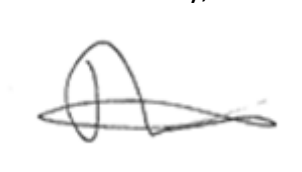
Following DfE guidance, the following measures will be maintained:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone - frequent and thorough hand cleaning is regular practice and will be maintained.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes – frequent cleaning will be maintained.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated - the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach will continue to be followed, along with opening external windows and doors.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19 – this will be adhered to at all times.

I realise that dependant on your view of COVID-19 pandemic, this news will either be welcome or potentially concerning. I would like to reassure you that we will continue to do everything we can to maintain your child's health; wellbeing and access to high quality education.

Additional details will follow over the remaining weeks of this term, however, I wanted to provide you with this initial overview as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me via email: head@elvingtonprimary.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Buttery', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Mr. Andrew Buttery