

**Date:** Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Northfield Lane, Horbury, Wakefield,  
West Yorkshire,  
WF4 5DW

01924 263224

Email: [admin@horburyprimary.accordmat.org](mailto:admin@horburyprimary.accordmat.org)  
Website: [www.horburyprimary.accordmat.org](http://www.horburyprimary.accordmat.org)

Dear Parent/Carer,

## **Government's Plan B Announcement**

As you will be aware on Wednesday evening the Prime Minister announced the implementation of [Plan B of the COVID-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan](#), to reduce pressure on the NHS. Plan B sets out a number of additional measures across society to control transmission of COVID-19.

The Government is clear on the critical importance of not disrupting the education of children and young people and will prioritise keeping all education and childcare settings open.

To support this, the DfE have provided an update for all school settings yesterday morning, that sets out the following measures to support the Government announcement.

## **Attendance**

School attendance remains mandatory and all the usual rules continue to apply. Enabling children and young people to attend their education setting regularly continues to be a national priority. The academy may be able to grant leaves of absence for pupils in exceptional circumstances. All established academy procedures in relation to attendance remain unchanged.

Children and young people previously considered Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) should attend the academy as normal and should follow the same [COVID-19 guidance](#) as the rest of the population. In some circumstances, a child or young person may have received personal advice from their specialist or clinician on additional precautions to take and they should continue to follow that advice.

## **Face Coverings**

Face coverings are not recommended for primary aged children when attending school.

Face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors in communal areas and when moving around the academy, unless they are exempt. This is in line with our current risk assessment following the re-introduction of this measure last week.

Face coverings are not recommended for pupils and staff in classrooms or office spaces.

## **Wrap Around Care Provision / After-School Activities**

Wraparound care provision and after school activities can continue. These activities provide valuable childcare for working parents and carers at our primary academies and after school activities facilitate an important aspect of wider provision to promote the wellbeing of children and young people.

## Working From Home

Whilst the Government has advised office workers who can work from home to do so from Monday 13 December, the Government expects all education and childcare settings to continue to provide face-to-face teaching. All academy staff will continue to attend the academy. Teaching and learning will not be moved online as a result of the work from home guidance.

## Testing

We are strongly encouraging all our staff to continue with regular LFD testing both during term time and over the Christmas break.

The Government advises children in year 7 and above and adults to test if they will be in a high-risk situation on any particular day and before visiting people who are at higher risk of severe illness if they get COVID-19.

May we sensitively ask that where you are invited to attend the academy for a pre-planned event or meeting that you undertake a lateral flow device (LFD) test before attending the academy if you are able to do so. Please do not attend the academy if you are displaying any of the Coronavirus symptoms.

## Isolation

The guidelines for isolation are currently as follows:

If you live with or have been in contact with someone with COVID-19, you will not need to self-isolate if any of the following apply:

- you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS;
- you're under 18 years, 6 months old;
- you're taking part or have taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial;
- you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons.

However, all individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the **Omicron variant of COVID-19**, irrespective of vaccination status and age, **will be required to self-isolate for 10 days and asked to book a PCR test**. This only applies to the Omicron variant positive test and not any other positive test. Persons testing positive for the Omicron variant or persons who are a close contact of a person testing positive for the Omicron variant will be contacted directly by Test and Trace.

## January Return

As advised by the Government, we will review our existing Outbreak Management Plans to ensure we are fully prepared for any future changes that may be advised by the Government or an increase in case numbers, seeking advice from Public Health teams as required.

Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation during these difficult times.

Yours sincerely,



Ms JK Tomlinson  
Headteacher