



MEDINA PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Friday 1st April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

As you may be aware, from today, Friday 1st April 2022, the Government have announced that new guidelines will come into operation with regards to managing Covid19.

Children who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can come back to school when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough to attend – this would be the same with any other illness.

Essentially the Government are advising that schools should return to pre Covid systems of managing absence. The reason for this is, that the Government believes, the population now has much stronger protection against Covid19 than at any other time. This means we start to manage the virus like any other respiratory infection (for example flu). We will no longer request proof of a positive LFT/PCR and our normal attendance procedures will apply.

However, it is very clear to me that there is a high level of Covid19 cases across our city – this is evident by the high level of absence amongst staff members – which has led to some schools not being able to remain open to all pupils. With this in mind, Medina will continue to operate our 'safe systems' – regular hand washing/sanitising, good ventilation, restricting too many adults in the building etc. The last thing we want is another outbreak and classes being put back into 'bubbles' or, even worse, pupils being asked to remain at home due to staff shortages.

I am sure you will agree with me that for the next few weeks, it is best to 'play it safe'. With this in mind, I again remind parents to be respectful to *all* families and keep that 'safe space' in the playground and at the top of the pedestrian path at the end of the school day.

With universal access to free Covid19 testing ending on 31st March 2022, Portsmouth City Council will offer free test kits for Portsmouth residents who want to continue to protect others.

From Friday 1st April 2022, each household in Portsmouth will be eligible to claim up to one box of five tests per month from April to June 2022, while stocks last. You should take your proof of address to one of nine locations across Portsmouth. More details are available on the council's website: www.portsmouth.gov.uk/freecovidtests

If you have any questions regarding the above, please email the address at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

H J Payne
Headteacher

