



Rigby Lane, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 2EP

Tel: 01527 875475 Fax: 01527 870211

Headteacher: Mrs T Smith

[www.rigbyhallschool.com](http://www.rigbyhallschool.com)

Email – [office@rigbyhall.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@rigbyhall.worcs.sch.uk)

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Welcome back to another year where we hope for good health and happiness for all our children, staff, families, Governors and friends.

We were rather hoping that we could start a year where we didn't have to give so much focus to COVID! There are currently over 1400 cases in Bromsgrove at the moment compared to 518 when we finished for Christmas. Although the majority of people are fully vaccinated, this does not mean you can't and won't catch COVID. It hopefully means you will get it mildly. The updated guidance that we are continuing to follow:

- On Thursday and Monday mornings, this week and for the foreseeable, we ask that you continue to LFD your child BEFORE they come to school that day so we have the best opportunity to prevent this virus from entering the building. ALL staff will be doing this too. We will send out the results forms so we can keep track of these and you are also asked to update your NHS app with the results too.
- In addition to this, on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January, those who have given consent, will have their child tested in school as well.
- If your child tests positive, they can LFD on **day 6** and **day 7** of isolation and if they receive negative LFDs on both of these days, 24 hours apart, they are allowed to return to the classroom on **day 8**. I will need to see the negative LFD results for both of these tests for our updates to the LORT (Local Outbreak Response Team) and also PHE (Public Health England).

*Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8. (DfE 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022)*

- If they are still showing as positive on their LFD on day 6, then they will have to keep isolating until they have had their 2 negative results 24 hours apart, or they reach their 10<sup>th</sup> day before coming out on the 11<sup>th</sup> day, whichever comes first.
- As a close contact, those aged 12 and above can LFD for 7 days after their contact. Staff will also be required to do this.



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- Those who are not fully vaccinated, as close contacts, still have to isolate for the 10 day period.

*People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.*

*Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. (DfE 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022)*

- Masks are not compulsory for pupils with additional needs, however, if your child feels more comfortable wearing a mask, they are welcome to do so. Staff will be wearing masks in all communal areas.
- Pupils will continue to eat lunches in their classrooms
- Assemblies will be done virtually
- Where we have staff absences we will remain open as long as this is not a health and safety risk. This will be decided on class per class basis due to cohorts within our setting and their needs. For example, if joining up classes means we remain open, that's how we'll manage this. If joining up classes would cause more distress for the children as will be the case for certain groups here, then the children will revert to remote learning. This will be the very last option.

*We recognise that the high rates of COVID-19 may cause difficulties with the availability of staff. Our shared priority is to keep education settings open and children and young people continuing face-to-face education. Where workforce issues arise, you may wish to use existing teaching, temporary and support staff more flexibly where required to ensure your setting remains open, whilst ensuring that you continue to have appropriate support in place for pupils with SEND. As pupils do not need to be kept in consistent groups, you may wish to consider combining classes. (DfE 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022)*

Please continue to be aware that decisions may need to be made in the best interests of our specialist setting. We will always follow the guidance as far as possible but please know that where we need to make decisions based solely upon our children and their needs, we will not be afraid to do so and up to this point, have always had full agreement from LORT and PHE in doing this.



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I sent a staffing list out before Christmas with some changes. In light of COVID and the possibility of remote learning at times (in the most extreme cases) now would not be the best time to make these changes, therefore we will stay as follows:

Primary Department led by Mrs Shelley Hughes		
Class	Teachers	Teaching Assistants
Early Years, KS1 & KS2 lead – Mrs Shelley Hughes Sapling	Mrs Shelley Hughes – Mon/Tues Miss Charlie Dowling–Wed-Fri	Zoe + new TA
Sycamore	Mr James Horne	Vanessa – Mon-Wed Katie – Thurs/Fri Sasha Omar
Willow	Mrs Charlotte Burke	Vicky Alma
Beech	Mrs Cecelia Bowater	Abbi Paige
Oak	Mrs Abbie Burnell	Donna Tiffany
Rowan	Miss Faye Brook	Grace Callum
Hazel	Mrs Jayne Moran	Ryan Taiba
Cherry	Mr David Green	Milly Simon
Chestnut Centre lead – Mrs Rebecca Walsh Chestnut 1	Miss Rachel Kearns	Kerrie Nadine Louise
Chestnut 2	Mrs Rebecca Walsh	Nat – Mon-Thurs Amy – Mon-Wed Lesley – Thurs/Fri Diane



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<b>Secondary Department led by Mr Ben Homer</b>		
<b>KS3 lead – Mrs Kelly Ferran</b> 3.1	Mrs Kelly Ferran	Fay RJ Louisa - Wed-Fri
3.2	Mr Ryan Jee	Sam Tilly – Mon-Thurs Emma – Fri Sarah
3.3	Mrs Emma Brookes	Mark Katie – Mon/Tues
Maple	Mr David Pearce	Tassie Charlie
<b>KS4 (temporary) lead – Mrs Danielle Walker</b> 4.1	Mrs Danielle Walker – Wed- Fri (although full time currently) Mrs Jayne Yorke – Mon-Wed	Hayley
4.2	Mr Geoff O’Brien	Chris – Mon-Thurs
<b>KS5 lead – Miss Rhian Smith</b> Post 16	Miss Rhian Smith	Beth Michelle – Mon/Wed/Fri Emma – Tues/Thurs Claire

Please remember that all children need to wear their school uniform and PE kits. The only exception is when they have forest school. The expectation for PE is that children bring in their kits to change in to in school as this is a big part of their self-help and life skills. ALL children need to wear their PE kits. If there are any issues in providing this, please just let us know.

So, 2022 is here, it’s not too different to 2021 but hopefully more of us are in a safer position to tackle it and together we continue to move forwards towards some sense of normality!

Thanks as ever for your continued support, it means a lot.

Tracey



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