

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

### **Black History Month**

This month is Black History Month. As a whole school we will be celebrating and recognising the contributions black people have made to British society throughout history, art, and culture this month and throughout the year. In particular, children will be learning about black women who have made remarkable contributions to literature, music, fashion, sport, business, politics, academia, social and health care, and more. To celebrate the Black History month, we are asking children to come to school in black, red, yellow, or green colours on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October. This will be a non-uniform day for all children.

### **World Mental Health Day**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October is World Mental Health Day, Hello Yellow Day. It is supported by Young Minds and is a fun way to get people talking about how they feel. On Hello Yellow day we are asking children and staff to wear something yellow. This is to show our support for each other and help YoungMinds create a brighter future for children and young people to make sure they get the support they need with their mental health. Children in Reception - Year 2 will be able to wear yellow on Wednesday when they return from their visit. We will be asking for a voluntary donation of £1 for YoungMinds. Children will be challenged to say something kind to a teacher; wave and smile at a friend and tell a joke (an appropriate one) to try and make someone laugh! This will be a non-uniform day for the children in school. Children out on an educational visit will be expected to be in school uniform.

If you are concerned about a child or young person in your life, contact the Parents Helpline for free, confidential advice.

Call the helpline on 0808 8025544

Or visit [www.youngminds.org.uk/parents-helpline](http://www.youngminds.org.uk/parents-helpline) to speak to them online.

### **Updated Guidance on Covid-19 – 2023/24**

Since March 2022, there have no longer been specific rules relating to Covid-19 in schools, colleges, childcare and other education settings.

Schools have been advised to treat Covid-19 like other respiratory infections such as flu and should still be encouraging their pupils to follow basic hygiene precautions.

The full guidance is available on the Department for Education website - <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/09/27/what-are-the-latest-rules-around-covid-19-in-schools-colleges-nurseries-and-other-education-settings/>

To help to refer to, here are some common questions and answers.

**Can a child go to school if they have Covid-19 or Covid-19 symptoms?**

No, a child shouldn't attend school with Covid-19 or Covid-19 symptoms. Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature or who have tested positive for Covid-19 are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for three days. The day of the test being day 0. After three days if they feel well and don't have a temperature they can return to school. If they are still unwell, they should wait until they feel better, and their temperature has returned to normal.

**What measures are schools still taking to prevent the spread of Covid-19?**

The best protection is vaccination, and all eligible pupils are encouraged to take up vaccination programmes for Covid-19 and flu. Masks are no longer recommended in schools, but the following hygiene measures are still in place:

- encouraging basic hygiene measures such as regular hand washing and cleaning
- encouraging children to cover their mouths when coughing and sneezing
- ensuring that spaces are well-ventilated, and that fresh air is let in regularly

Again, to remind you, this and other guidance is available on the Department for Education website - <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/09/27/what-are-the-latest-rules-around-covid-19-in-schools-colleges-nurseries-and-other-education-settings/>

Any major change to the guidance from the Department for Education will be issued by the school to its community.

**Equality and Diversity**

Please remember to share your opinions on the school's approach and delivery of equal opportunities and diversity in our school.

The data from this questionnaire will feed into our Equality and Diversity Action Plan.

We have been addressing descriptions of equality and diversity through our assembly on Protected Characteristics. This covers characteristics (disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, sex, pregnancy and maternity, age, race, religion and belief and sexual orientation) that are protected by law to ensure that everyone is protected from discrimination and to help society be equal and fair for all. This form expires on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October.

<https://forms.office.com/e/Z0iViJmPB3>

Kind regards



Ms D. Brown  
Headteacher