



13th October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Our Response to current COVID levels in Orchard Lea Junior School

We have been working with the Department for Education, Hampshire County Council and Public Health England to manage our current outbreak of COVID cases. You will have received letters yesterday explaining the situation and any action you need to take. I understand that this situation has raised many concerns so wanted to give you an update on our current measures in place. The approach that schools have been directed to take this term is set by government in the Contingency Framework for Education. It is based on these principles.

- *The overarching objective is to maximise the number of children and young people in face-to-face education or childcare and minimise any disruption, in a way that best manages the COVID-19 risk.*
- *The impacts of having missed face-to-face education during the pandemic are severe for children, young people and adults. In all cases, any benefits in managing transmission should be weighed against any educational drawbacks.*
- *Endeavour to keep any measures in education and childcare to the minimum number of settings or groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible.*
- *Keep all measures under regular review and lift them as soon as the evidence supports doing so.*

Measures currently in place in response to increase in COVID cases as of 13/10/21 Whole School

1. Separate year group area for break and lunch
2. No whole school assemblies. We will hold virtual ones.
3. Parents evening now all virtual.
4. Open Morning for Year 2 parents cancelled
5. Harvest Festival postponed.
6. Non-essential visitors cancelled.
7. Thorough Cleaning.
8. Reminders to sanitise/wash hands regularly
9. Pupils with any of the three recognised symptoms of COVID are sent home and a test is requested. Anyone not taking a test is still subject to a 10 day isolation period following the start of symptoms
10. Enter and leave school by their own class door from Thursday 14th Oct. (text today)
11. Adequate Ventilation that ensures air is fresh whilst room temperature remains comfortable.

12. All adults wearing masks in communal areas
13. All staff have Lateral Flow test twice a week.

Additionally in Year 3 and Year 5

1. Parents are strongly recommended by Public Health letter to get their child a PCR test, as they are all close contacts of positive COVID cases. Unless children have the PCR result or symptoms, schools cannot send pupils home.
2. Children are eating their lunches in their classrooms.
3. Children have a set seat for the day
4. Monitoring that hands are sanitised/washed regularly
5. Remain in own classroom as much as possible and not use shared spaces.

We hope this helps to put your mind at ease at this challenging time. If you have any questions then please contact the school office.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Summerton
Headteacher