MANOR COURT Community Primary School
incorporating **Manor Court Early Years Centre**
A Member of Preston Primary Academy Trust

Head Teacher Mr L Talmage
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Tuesday 22nd March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reference: Removal of Covid safety measures and restrictions

It is with pleasure that we write to you to inform you of the steps that we are taking to remove the safety measures that schools were required to take to limit the transmission of coronavirus. Throughout the pandemic we have been taking a common-sense approach to these measures and have been extremely grateful for your continued support when we had to introduce and enforce them.
However, it is important for us to highlight that some of the measures have proved popular with the children, staff, and parents and will remain in place; covid compelled us to work differently and many of the changes have been positive for the children and staff.

Assemblies
Last Friday we were delighted to hold our face-to-face celebration assemblies in the school hall. Key-stage celebration assemblies will be held each Friday morning and Key-stage singing assemblies will be held each Tuesday. Occasionally it will still be appropriate and necessary to hold assemblies in the classroom via Zoom.
On Friday 22nd April and each subsequent week, it is our intention to warmly welcome family members to the Friday Celebration assemblies.

Face masks
Last week we lifted the expectation for staff to wear face masks within the school buildings or outside during the school day, although some staff are choosing to continue to wear them.

Zones on playground
Having spoken to many children it has proved positive for the children that different year group zones remain for the children to have their morning and lunchtime break in. The children feel that this leads to a calmer and happier social time with their peers, and we wish to ensure that less structured times are happy so we will keep these measures in place.

Teacher and parent communication through email and Eylog
Another positive aspect of the daily running of the school during the past two years has been clear communication via email and Eylog between school and home. This use of direct communication and our social media accounts has enabled quick and efficient communication. We will continue to communicate with parents in this way and please do continue to contact your child's teacher through this medium.

Covid case email address
The covid case email address: covidcase@manorcourt.ppat365.org has been a useful tool for parents to inform the school of and seek advice from the school about a positive test result. This email address will continue to be monitored regularly and please do email it for advice about positive coronavirus cases.

Staff testing
For the foreseeable future, staff will continue to test twice a week with a lateral flow device and self-isolate for at least five days if the result is positive. This may occasionally put additional strain on staffing, but we believe that this is essential to ensure that we limit outbreaks of covid within the different year groups.

What should I do if my child or a member of our household tests positive for coronavirus?
We still request that parents contact the coronavirus email address for advice and as a rule of thumb to prevent outbreaks in year groups, we would expect all children who have tested positive to stay at home for five days and receive a negative LFT test result on day 5 & 6 before returning to school.

If a family member tests positive your child is allowed to come to school if they are testing negative on an LFT.

We appreciate that it will soon not be possible to receive free LFT's from the Government and we will inform all parents of updated guidance at that point.

Lunchtime – eating our sandwiches or hot meals
With the exception of our Foundation Stage, children are currently eating their lunches in their classrooms. After the Easter holidays children who have a school meal will eat these in the school hall and children with packed lunches from home will continue to eat their lunch in their classrooms.

PE Kits
On the day on which your child's class has PE they are to continue wearing their PE kit to school.

No Dogs on our school site
We all enjoy seeing the dogs being walked by their owners in the morning. We politely remind you that no dogs are allowed onto the school site at any time regardless of whether they are in their owners' arms, or on a lead. Guide dogs are permitted onto the school site.

Trim Trails and Play Equipment
Please remember that the Trim Trails and play equipment are not to be used at any point by the children before or after school.

Start and end of the school day

From Monday 28th March 2022 we are removing the requirements for staggered starts and the need for different year groups to use different gates at the start and end of the school day.

Start of the school day
The school gates will open at 08:35 when children (and their parents) can use whichever gate that they wish to enter the school ground. <u>It is our expectation that children do not arrive at the school gate before this time and that parents understand that children are still their responsibility until this point.</u>

On arrival, children (not Foundation Stage) are expected to go straight to their classroom without the supervision of their parents. <u>For safeguarding reasons (and the continued independence of each child) parents are not to enter the school building at any point during this morning drop off time.</u>

The school gates will close for all at 08:50 and if parents have chosen to come onto site, they are expected to be offsite by the time. Any children arriving after 08:50 will be classed as a late arrival and will be marked so accordingly on the school register.

End of the school day
At the end of the school day the gates will open at 15:10 and children can be collected from the following places at the listed time. You will notice there is a five-minute difference in time between KS1 and KS2 collection times to ensure that parents can get to the place that they need to be:

There is no compulsion for parents to come onto the school site if they do not wish to and for safeguarding reasons it is the expectation as in the morning that parents do not enter the school building.

Hedgehogs & Squirrels Class	Foundation Stage outside area	At 15:10
Bumblebees Class	Year 1 outdoor area onto the Key Stage 1 playground	At 15:10
Dragonflies Class	Year 1 outdoor area onto the Key Stage 1 playground	At 15:10
Nightingales Class	Door from the school building (nearest the Nightingales classroom) onto the Key Stage 2 playground	At 15:10
Magpies Class	Door at the front of the school	At 15:10
Owls Class	Door from the main building onto the Key Stage 2 playground nearest Owls classroom	At 15:15
Kingfishers Class	Door from the school building (nearest the Kingfishers classroom) onto the Key Stage 2 playground	At 15:15
Eagles Class	Door from the school building (nearest the Eagles classroom) onto the Key Stage 1 playground	At 15:15
Puffins Class	Door from the school building (nearest the Puffins classroom) onto the Key Stage 2 playground	At 15:15
Foxes Class	Wall at the top of the Key Stage 1 playground	At 15:15
Badgers Class	Wall at the top of the Key Stage 1 playground	At 15:15
Otters Class	Key Stage 2 playground	At 15:15
Herons Class	Key Stage 2 playground	At 15:15

We are sure you appreciate that with the unpredictable nature of coronavirus, we will be required to review the procedures after two weeks and will inform you if we need to make any changes.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Luke Talmage
Head Teacher

Mr Alan Clode
Deputy Head and Inclusion Leader