



4<sup>th</sup> November, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## COVID 19 Update

### Lateral Flow Testing

As part of our ongoing efforts to limit the spread of Covid, we will be offering lateral flow tests at school to students whose parents/carers have previously given consent for these. The schedule below indicates the dates for the LFD tests, students will be withdrawn briefly from lessons for the test.

Year	Lateral Flow Test in school
11	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> November
10	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> November
8	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> November
9	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> November
7	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> November

We have been asked again by the NHS to remind parents and students of the vital need to routinely test themselves throughout the term. Home test kits have been issued to students for this and replacements will be provided during coming months. The NHS and Public Health England recommend that all students complete 2 lateral flow tests each week.

### Face coverings

Face coverings continue to remain optional at present. The situation will continue to remain under review in light of the infection levels in the community. We will not discourage anyone from wearing a face covering and appreciate that numerous children and staff prefer to continue to wear them.

### Social Distancing

We will still encourage social distancing between staff and between students and staff.

### Unwell

It is vital for us to continue to restrict the **spread of illness in general** amongst the school community. This both helps to reduce anxiety and the potential for a coronavirus outbreak. Although I appreciate that it can be inconvenient to keep children at home, we aim to reduce the transmission of illnesses such as colds and flu, as well as coronavirus. This is particularly important as the winter approaches.



It is imperative that everyone continues to cooperate and remains cautious to keep everyone safe. So, if your child is **unwell for any reason** they should not come to school until they have fully recovered. Typically, this might be for **5 to 7 days or longer**. Any child that displays any of the main symptoms of coronavirus, must stay at home for **10 days** and seek a PCR test.

### **Warm clothing**

As colder weather approaches, students are encouraged to wear sufficient layers to keep warm. To reduce the risk of Covid transmission, staff will keep windows open to ensure good ventilation. Children may find they are at times seated close to open windows and an extra layer could aid comfort.

### **Remote Education**

We will maintain our capacity to deliver high quality remote education to support students who are unable to attend school. If your child is unwell or is required to isolate they can continue with their education remotely, at home, if they are well enough. Please contact the school if you require further information on how to access the online resources.

### **Parents' Evenings**

During the pandemic Parents' Evenings have been online. Feedback from parents has been very positive and consequently we will continue to host all Parents' Evenings online for the remainder of the academic year.

### **Overall**

We were fortunate that infection levels were comparatively very low at Gladesmore last half-term. We are eager for this trend to continue throughout the winter, so your support and understanding is certainly appreciated to achieve this. With your cooperation we will endeavour to continue keep the school safe, happy, and enjoyable for everyone.

Sincerely,

T. Hartney CBE