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**To All Parents & Carers at St Benet's MAT Academies**

Dear Parents & Carers,

As a Trust, we and the leaders in our schools have been looking at the guidance that was released yesterday evening by the Department for Education in relation to Covid and its management in schools. This relates to the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday about "living with Covid".

In the short term, the key messages are:

- **There is no immediate change in how your school manages Covid.** Systems that have been in place this term will remain in place until further notice. We will write to you again in due course to confirm changes from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 (following further Government announcements).
- **Please seek a test for your child if they are showing symptoms of Covid.** Testing continues to be in place as before for those showing symptoms and will be until 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.
- **If your child tests positive for Covid please ensure they isolate in line with PHE guidance.** This means at least 5 days away from school. We would ask that you carry out lateral flow testing on days 5 and 6 to see if they can return to school. We will ask our staff to do the same.
- **The government has announced twice weekly lateral flow tests will stop for staff and secondary age students.** There are still lateral flow tests available until 1<sup>st</sup> April and if parents wish to use these we would support your choice to do so, as we will with our staff.

Whilst the legal requirements for isolation have changed, the Public Health England (PHE) guidance remains. Our schools have and always will follow the PHE guidance to limit the spread of infectious diseases as we do for illnesses such as Norovirus or Chicken Pox.

Our school communities have worked well together to keep our schools open and as safe for students and staff as possible. Your support as parents has been vital for this. We will continue to work together as guidance changes and will provide you with updates where appropriate.

Limiting the spread of Covid in our schools not only protects health but allows us to keep our schools open to all children.

Yours sincerely,

**Richard Cranmer**  
**Chief Executive Officer**