Ormesby Village Infant & Junior Schools Federation

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Dear Parents/Carers,

22.2.22

Following the Government's announcement, the Prime Minister has set out the next phase of the government's COVID-19 response 'Living with COVID-19.' COVID-19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with and the importance of reducing the disruption to children and young people's education remains.

From Monday 21 February, the Government is removing the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing. Given they know that the risks of severe illness from COVID-19 in most children and most fully vaccinated adults are very low, and the vaccination programme has achieved a high rate of take-up, advice is being removed bringing education into line with wider society.

From Thursday 24 February, the Government will remove the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days. In addition, the Government will:

• No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days, and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.

• End routine contact tracing. Contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests. Staff, children and young people should attend their education settings as usual. This includes staff who have been in close contact within their household, unless they are able to work from home.

• No longer provide free COVID-19 tests from 1st April 2022.

Education Unions have made it clear to the Government today that the move away from compelling people by law to stay away from school if they have COVID-19, moving to a personal responsibility to be considerate of others, will create many practical difficulties for schools.

It is absolutely essential that schools and families have complete clarity about what action they should do if a pupil or member of staff has COVID-19. Unions have called on the Government to publish unambiguous guidance making it very clear that those with COVID-19 should not be in school, with equally clear messaging about when pupils and staff are able to safely return. Clearly, there has to be a consistent approach across the country.

Without such clarity, schools will be put in impossible positions.

As always, we await further Government guidance for schools and will inform you once we have it.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding

Yours sincerely,

Bradley Young Headteacher Clive Sillitoe **Chair of Governors**









