



Oak Trees Multi Academy Parent Newsletter – Sep 2021

Co-operate and collaborate

Achieve excellence for all

Raise aspirations and inspire imaginations

Explore new interests and new ideas

Welcome Back

Firstly, I would like to welcome all our new and existing families back to school after the summer holidays. The past 12 months has been particularly difficult and challenging for our children, and I am hopeful that this year will be a more stable and positive year for us all.

Although we are in difficult times nationally, Oak Trees is continuing to work hard to ensure that our schools are the best they can be. We are running a comprehensive training package for all our schools, with other schools in the area attending at times, which includes national leaders in education working directly with school leaders. We also have further building work taking place across a number of schools, and we have lots of exciting plans for the year including developing links with Chester University and Unilever and an exciting project to develop writing. I am sure that, despite the difficult times we are in and the necessity for all schools to be safe for pupils, this will turn out to be a positive year for the Trust, and I thank parents for all their support for our schools.

Trust Board Update

As Chair of Trustees, I have been very impressed by the way our school communities have coped with the Covid-19 crisis. It has been very difficult and stressful for school leaders throughout the crisis, and yet they have dealt with it extremely well. Parents I speak to are very positive about the Trust schools, and the Board are very grateful to Headteachers and school staff for their hard work and to parents for their understanding in difficult times. Hopefully this year will be less disruptive, although it is early days.

We have a strong board of Trustees who have expertise in a number of areas, including health and safety, finance, HR and health. The Trust Board meet regularly to set the strategic direction of Oak Trees and to ensure that the schools operate effectively.

As Chair of Trustees, I am looking forward to a year when we continue to deliver as a Trust, and in which we move forward as a key provider for education in the local area.

Jane Owens
Chair of Trustees
Oak Trees MAT

Covid-19 Update

As you know, the Prime Minister announced on 12 July that Step 4 of the roadmap would go ahead on 19 July.

One of the key changes is that education and childcare settings **will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing**. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case – or in the case of children – the parents, carers or guardian of the positive case to identify close contacts.

NHS Test and Trace already manages the contact tracing process for the rest of society – including children who have recorded a positive PCR test – and has expertise in supporting people to identify close contacts.

Below is more detail as to how that process will work and what you need to do if your child tests positive for COVID-19.

Self-isolating and taking a test

1. If your child has symptoms, they should self-isolate – and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a PCR test for them. If the PCR result is negative, they can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, they must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.
2. PCR tests can be booked online through the [NHS Test & Trace website](#) or by calling 119.
3. PCR test results will be recorded with NHS Test and Trace automatically, but you should also communicate the result to the your child's school during term time.

Contact tracing

4. If your child gets a positive PCR test result, NHS Test and Trace will contact you, using the details you registered when ordering the PCR test. You and/or your child will be asked a series of specific questions designed to identify who your child has been in close contact with. Being in an education or childcare setting with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact.
5. You will be asked to provide the contact details, if you know them, of any of the individuals – or their parents or guardians – who have been identified as close contacts. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch with these close contacts and provide appropriate instructions or advice (see below).

Self-isolation and/or testing of close contacts

6. **From 16 August**, if the close contact is under 18, they will not have to self-isolate (in line with the policy for fully vaccinated adults) but will be asked to take a PCR test, and they will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test. If the PCR test is positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch to identify close contacts (see points 4 and 5 above).

Your child's school will **not** send out letters or call other parents to inform them of a case in the school as all contact tracing and Covid-19 response is to be carried out by the NHS Track and Trace team, and as such for confidentiality reasons the advice is that we should leave all aspects

of the process to Track and Trace. Whilst we understand that this is different from previous policy and parents may wish to know of any cases, we are following Wirral Public Health guidance by allowing Track and Trace to deal with the issues and to identify and contact any close contacts from the positive case. Information regarding home learning is available on the school website for parents of any children who are having to self isolate.

Thank you for your continued support for our schools and our Headteachers as they continue to follow Government and Public Health policy in relation to this ever-evolving situation.

Thanks for all your support

Tony Lacey

CEO

Oak Trees MAT

Contact Details

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Trust Board

Jane Owens – Chair	Email: chair@oaktreesmat.co.uk
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