

7<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to you because at the current time, rates of COVID-19 are increasing in Croydon, as in the rest of London and England. In the last few weeks, we have seen a particular increase in cases in children in Croydon and, in response, I have strongly advised education settings in Croydon to consider implementing additional infection prevention control measures.

These measures will help us to keep delivering in person education, and hopefully enable us to enjoy the upcoming holidays. In selecting additional measures, I have carefully considered those which I feel will have minimal impact on education and are effective at reducing risk of transmission.

My recommendations are:

- Staff and visitors to undertake twice-weekly lateral flow testing for people without symptoms
- Daily check-ins with parents/carers at the start of the nursery day to ask whether they have been feeling unwell with COVID-19 symptoms.
- Cancelling or moving in person Christmas carol services and performances to online (unless outdoors)
- Encourage staff to social distance
- Reintroduce group bubbles for play, learning and meal times.
- Household close contacts who are exempt from isolation and are attending the setting are encouraged to carry out daily lateral flow testing for 10 days after the onset of symptoms (or positive test if asymptomatic) in the case in their household, and only attend the setting if their lateral flow test is negative. They are also encouraged to follow national guidance for all contacts and access a PCR test at [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-infection). People who have tested positive with a PCR test within the last 90 days do not need to be tested.

As parents and guardians, I hope you will contribute to limiting transmission in nursery and early year settings by supporting these measures.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R Flowers". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Rachel Flowers** Director of Public Health