

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

A very happy New Year to you and your family! I hope you had a restful and healthy break.

I write to update you on the return to school on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022** and to share updated Government guidance issued to schools on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January. There are some important changes to be aware of. These are outlined below:

### **Changes to the Isolation Period**

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason. Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

### **Close Contacts**


People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and **continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.**

**Children under 5** are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

### **Face Coverings**

Face coverings will continue to be worn by staff and visitors inside communal areas and corridors – this will be reviewed at the next Government evaluation point, 26 January. Any children who wish to wear face coverings may of course do so as long as they are worn correctly.

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### **Testing**

Staff will continue to test twice weekly and upload results to the NHS Test and Trace (this includes any who have had covid within the last 90 days). It is parental choice with regards to LFD testing primary age children before their return to school.

### **External Visitors**

Only essential business visitors/contractors will be allowed on-site until January 26 (until Plan B regulations are due to be reviewed); there will be no on-site meetings with parents or carers until this review point. The only exception would be with visits from children's services professionals. Where essential visits are allowed, parents, carers and other visitors are asked to take an LFT at home before entering the setting and only attend if it returns a negative result. Should you need to collect your child for a medical appointment or because they are unwell, please can you wear a face covering and sanitise upon entry to Reception.

### **Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice on COVID-19 vaccination for at-risk 5 to 11 year olds**

On Wednesday 22 December, the government accepted advice from the [Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation \(JCVI\)](#) that a primary course of vaccination should be offered to children aged 5 to 11 years old who are in a clinical risk group, or who are a household contact of someone (of any age) who is immunosuppressed. The NHS is working through updated guidance and will be organising this programme.

Finally, please do keep in touch through the usual channels. Despite the challenges, we are very excited to be continuing our learning journey this year with a fantastic group of pupils who never cease to amaze us with their enthusiasm, love of learning and unique talents.

We are all very much looking forward to welcoming you back to school this term and appreciate all the support that you continue to give to enable us to work together really well for the benefit of the children.

Warmest Regards



Mrs Susie Evans  
Headteacher