

Monday 3rd January 2022

Dear Families,

Return to school

I'd like to wish you a very happy New Year. I hope you all managed to enjoy the holiday, the time with family and friends and that you are all well. **We are looking forward to seeing you all and welcoming the children back to school on Wednesday 5th January.**

To ensure we have the safest start back possible I would like you all to ensure you and your child have a negative lateral flow test result before you return to site on Wednesday. If your child is showing symptoms, please book a PCR test and ensure the result is negative before returning to school.

England is currently under Plan B restrictions, which includes mandatory masks in most public places, COVID passes for larger events and gatherings and guidance to work from home if possible. If your child is currently isolating due to a positive PCR test result the self-isolation rules have changed also. I have included them below to support you identify when your child may be able to return to school if they are self-isolating currently.

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.

I am planning ahead for the impact COVID-19 may have on staffing to reduce the impact across the school. We will keep in place our own proactive measure of year group bubbles to reduce the

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transmission. To maintain consistency I will be using in house staff from across the school to cover staff absence in the first instance and ensure I can continue to provide face to face education. Supply agencies are struggling to provide staff to support schools currently given the number of front line workers also affected by COVID. We will be following the most recent government guidance; as of 2nd January 2022, to staff flexibly to keep the school open and provide face to face education. I would like to thank you all for your understanding with this in advance. The government are suggesting further guidance for schools will be issued on or around the 4th January and I will update you following this. Our risk assessment is a live document and will reflect the guidance and measures the school feels it is necessary to put in place to keep everyone safe.

On Wednesday 5th January please ensure;

- You and your child have a negative lateral flow test result
- You wear a mask while on site, unless you are exempt
- You drop off and pick up swiftly to keep contact to less than 15 minutes
- You socially distance when on site
- You continue to do twice weekly lateral flow tests and book a PCR test if your child develops symptoms or has a positive lateral flow test result

The school will be open if you have any questions tomorrow. I am very much looking forward to the upcoming Spring Term and look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday.

Best Wishes

Natasha Outhwaite



Head Teacher

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