



4 January 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians

Happy New Year – I hope you and your families have enjoyed some relaxing and happy times during the Christmas Break.

When we broke up on 17 December there was a degree of uncertainty about what January would bring for schools and we expected further instruction from the Department for Education which duly arrived on 2 January.

We are looking forward to seeing all our pupils back tomorrow. We know that pupils learn best in school and we are determined to do our very best to maintain face to face teaching for all our pupils. To help us achieve this goal, please can I ask you to carefully read the paragraphs below which detail the steps we will be taking to protect teaching and learning.

We have been instructed that there should be an extension of mask wearing and until the end of January pupils should wear their masks in class as well as in social spaces. Please can you ensure that your child brings a mask to school when they return tomorrow. We have been told the policy will be reviewed at the end of the month and we will keep you up to date if there are changes. There is good evidence that mask wearing substantially protects a community so please support this initiative.

Regular lateral flow testing continues to be an essential part of the government strategy to manage the pandemic and this is why we will offer all pupils a lateral flow test on return to school. We will have tested all of the pupils who have consent by Friday. Could I also please urge you to test your child on Tuesday (today) and do not send them to school tomorrow (Wednesday) if they return a positive result. If your child has a positive lateral flow result please arrange for them to have a PCR test.

There have been changes to the rules around self-isolation. People suffering from Coronavirus may now take lateral flow tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive 2 negative test results are no longer required to complete the 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. If both these test results are negative and there is no high temperature present the self-isolation period can end after the second negative test result and pupils can return to school from day 7.



If your child is a close contact of someone with Coronavirus as they are under the age of 18 years and 6 months they do not need to self-isolate, however it is strongly advised that they take a daily lateral flow test for 7-10 days, dependent on their last contact with the person who tested positive. If they receive a positive result during this time or develop any symptoms please arrange for them to have a PCR test.

We will be issuing all children with a pack of 7 lateral flow tests by the end of the week. Please can you be sure to re-establish a routine of twice-weekly testing and we recommend testing on a Monday and Wednesday. The tests we will send home give results in 15 minutes and only require a nose swab. We have secured a second consignment for later in the month.

If your child tests positive for Coronavirus it is possible that they will have only very mild or maybe even no symptoms. We will set online work for children who are well enough to do it. The work will be set as a Teams Assignment and ideally your child should stick to their school timetable to complete their work. If your child is not well enough to work please let us know when you call them in sick.

I hope the above clarifies the arrangements for the return to school and we look forward to seeing your sons and daughters on Wednesday.

Yours faithfully

Ms A L Mobbs
Principal