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3rd January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

RE Covid-19 update information

Happy New Year to you all!

I hope that you have all had a restful and healthy Christmas and New Year. We are aware that Covid-19 has impacted some of our families and staff over the Christmas period but we hope that everyone is recovering and looking forward to a great Spring Term.

We are looking forward to welcoming students and staff back to school on Wednesday, 5th January.

The DfE have issued some updates with regard to self-isolation guidelines and face coverings and these will be integrated into our guidance and risk assessments over the next few days. In short, however, these are the changes:

1. Changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19

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.

2. Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

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 their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time. 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.

3. Face coverings when on site

Whilst not mandatory, we would request that all adults (other than those who are exempt) wear a face covering when on the school site. Whilst we appreciate collection is outside, due to the numbers of adults on site we feel it would be in the best interests of all that we ask you to do this.

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4. Reporting PCR results

We have adapted our reporting form. If your child has a positive lateral flow test or positive PCR please complete the attached form so that we have an accurate picture of cases in school. To complete the form follow this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/yziYsFCWtm>

Our remote-learning provision remains in place should we need to activate this, however, we will endeavour to keep school open as much as humanly possible!

Enjoy the day of the Winter break, stay safe and here's wishing everyone the best of health and happiness in 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mrs pGrove", with a horizontal line underneath.

Mrs pGrove
Headteacher