



4th January 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

Happy New Year!

I hope that despite any impact that Covid may have had, you were able to enjoy the Christmas break.

As school reopens for all children tomorrow (**Wednesday 5th January**) at **8:40am**, I would like to take the opportunity to remind everyone about the current Covid-19 advice and guidance for schools to keep everyone as safe as possible within our school community.

Please can we remind you that children must not come to school if they have any of the main Covid-19 symptoms...

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

However, we have also seen many children who have been generally unwell, which has then resulted in a positive Covid case. Therefore, please can I ask that you are vigilant of your child feeling unwell.

Primary School children are not expected or advised to wear face masks in school. The changes that you may have seen on the news and in the media relates to Secondary School pupils only. All staff, visitors and volunteers will be wearing masks around school in communal areas to help limit the spread of any infection.

Close Contacts of Covid-19...

Children identified as a close contact of someone with Covid-19, should take an **LFD test every day for seven days**. This means that, if anybody in your household has Covid-19 or your child has had contact with anyone outside of your household who has had Covid-19, then your child/children need(s) to complete a LFD test every day before attending school, for seven consecutive days, and it needs to display a negative result each time.

They can continue to attend school as normal unless they have a positive LFD test result or they develop symptoms. If they have a positive LFD or display symptoms a PCR should be booked, and they should isolate at home until the results of the PCR are received and shared with school.

Changes to the self-isolation period following a positive PCR...

If your child tests positive on a LFD test, they should self-isolate and book a PCR test to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 7 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily LFD tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

Since Wednesday 22nd December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who receive a positive PCR test result for Covid-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances.

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**. If **both** these test results are negative, and the individual does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 8.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation.

As the Spring term begins, we are starting with low staffing levels as some of our staff have been poorly over the Christmas holidays. Some staff are still unwell, and some staff are still isolating. Please can I ask that you are patient with us if phone calls or emails are not answered at our usual speed. In addition, we may have different staff working in different parts of the school; therefore, please bear with us if we don't know the answer straight away and have to get back to you.

One key area that we have staff shortages in is our kitchen, as a result of this our menu options and availability may be different to normal over the next week or so. We are also asking that if you are able to provide your child with a packed lunch tomorrow (Wednesday 5th January), we would really appreciate it. We understand that not everyone will be able to do this, and there will still be a meal for those who do not have a packed lunch.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you all tomorrow for the first day of 2022 at West Kirby Primary School.

Mrs E Bailey
Headteacher