

Tuesday 14 December 2021

Dear Parents

RE: Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19

From today, the government has introduced a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19. All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating.

Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19. Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep pupils in face-to-face education.

If your child tests negative, they can continue to attend school. Outside school, please continue to follow the advice set out in the [Sunday 12 December press release](#). This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January.

If your child tests positive, they should self-isolate and [order a PCR test](#) to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 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 tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

Therefore if your child has been a close contact of COVID-19 please ensure that they take a lateral flow device (LFD) test before they come to school each day. This includes children who are in a class with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 (If there has been a positive case in your child's class, you would have received a letter to inform you of this) and if they are living with someone who has tested positive.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of the following:

- **Your child should not come to school if they have developed COVID-19 symptoms or have had a positive test result.** If your child develops [COVID-19 symptoms](#) (high temperature; a new continuous cough; or a loss or change in sense of taste or smell) however mild, they will be sent home and you should follow public health advice. You should get a PCR test to check if your child has COVID-19 as soon as possible and your child should stay at home and self isolate until they have had the test results back. Please inform the school of any positive test results.
- It is recommended that households test twice weekly for COVID-19 **using lateral flow device (LFD) test.** Around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 do not have symptoms. Rapid lateral flow tests help to find cases in people who may have no symptoms but are still infectious and can give the virus to others. Please click [here](#) for more information about ordering rapid lateral flow tests.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school community safe.

Best wishes to you and your families

Tijen Hassan
Headteacher