

Tuesday 4th January 2022.

## Dear Parents/Carers,

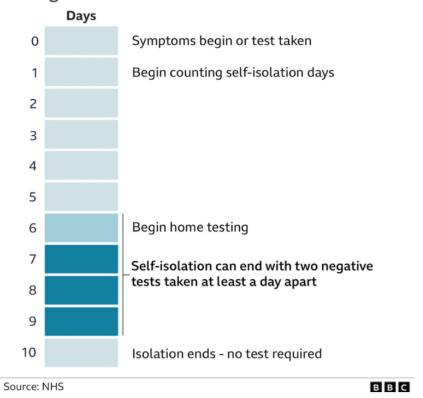
Happy New Year! I hope that you have managed to stay safe and have a relaxing Christmas break. Due to the high transmission levels of the Omicron variant, it is evident that lots of people have been affected or are currently being affected by covid-19.

At the moment, the DfE have not recommended any further mitigations for primary schools. Therefore, we will follow the guidance and bubbles will not be reintroduced at this stage. However, Public Health may advise schools to return to bubbles if there are a high number of cases within a school.

## Changes to the isolation period for individuals who have tested positive for covid-19.

As you will be aware, the government have amended the isolation period for confirmed cases of covid-19. The below graphic illustrates how the seven- day isolation rules works in England.

## How the seven-day isolation rule works in England



The guidance applies whatever your vaccination status. It applies whether you have tested positive for Omicron or another variant.

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Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self- isolation period. Those who receive two negative tests 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 your child has a high temperature, they cannot end their isolation period earlier even with two negative LFD results.

If your child is ending their isolation period earlier, please email the school office to confirm that they no longer have a temperature and that they have had two negative lateral flow tests on day 6 and day 7 and therefore will return on day 8. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation. Please note: It is common for people to still test positive on day 6 and day 7 so please don't assume that your child will be able to end their isolation period earlier.

Please do not send your child to school if they have any symptoms of covid-19. If they have symptoms, you must keep them at home and take them for a PCR test.

## **Daily testing for close contacts:**

People who are fully vaccinated, or children 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 school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

We look forward to welcoming all our pupils back to school tomorrow (Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022).

As always, thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Kind regards,

J. MCAleny Mrs McAleny