



ST MATTHEW'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

5th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

New Year COVID Update

Firstly, I would like to wish all of our families a very happy new year!

We are again starting the new year with renewed challenges, so wanted to share with you some of the updated guidance and actions we are taking.

Changes to isolation guidance

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 your child does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 7. Please share the result from their two LFD tests with the school office.

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

Further actions in school

In light of the current COVID rates in the local area, we have brought in further measures into school to reduce the spread as much as possible and therefore protect the health and education of all pupils.

These include:

- Reducing contact (especially indoors) between children in different classes
- Moving assemblies online
- Pausing the booking of new trips this term

We ask that you continue to do what you can to keep everyone as safe as possible by following all school and government guidance, including:

- Wearing a face covering when dropping off and collecting your child(ren) or when visiting school
- Ensuring your child isolates and takes a PCR test should they start displaying any COVID symptoms
- Informing the school office as soon as possible if your child tests positive on an LFD or PCR test
- Following any instructions to complete daily lateral flows should your child be identified as a likely contact of a positive case.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. We know that this term will present some challenges in terms of COVID but wanted to reassure you that we are taking steps to prevent this as much as possible and hope these actions will minimise any impact of COVID on the health, education and wellbeing of everyone in the school community.

Kind regards,

Mr Langridge
Headteacher

Let Your Light Shine

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