



The Oaks Primary School

Bringing Learning to Life

Additional COVID Safety Measures

14 December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I need to inform you that a number of staff have tested positive for COVID-19 on Lateral Flow Tests along with other members of their households. They are awaiting PCR results.

Staff absence will put a strain on the current staff team so please be patient if we do not respond as quickly as we normally would.

Our main priority now is to keep school open and as safe as possible, ensuring that children can attend and that our plans go ahead. If your child has symptoms **PLEASE** inform us and ensure you book a PCR to confirm a positive or negative result. **Children with symptoms must not be sent into school.**

As a school, we will then send a **school Text and Letter** to the individuals who have been in contact with a positive case, children over the age of 5 should carry out a Lateral Flow Test **daily for the next 7 days**. Siblings or members of a household with a positive case, should also carry out daily Lateral Flow Tests.

Please support us by ensuring **ANY ADULT** attending a Christmas Performance this week has carried out a Lateral Flow Test **BEFORE** coming into school. ***We also politely request that they wear a face mask.***

Yesterday evening we received further guidance from the Government relating to changes, which come into force **today**. Please support us by following the guidance below.

Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19

From Tuesday 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 is being introduced (including until the end of this term). All adults who are fully vaccinated and children **aged 5 and over**, 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.

Once notified by **NHS Test and Trace** as a close contact or via a **school Text and Letter**, all eligible **staff, pupils and students should take an LFD each day for 7 days** and report the results through the [Online Reporting System](#) and to their setting. If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. Outside of the education setting, they should continue to follow the advice set out in



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the [Sunday 12 December press release](#). This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January.

If they test 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.

For primary aged children [LFD test kits are available through the usual routes](#) (community test sites, local pharmacies or online). Children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate.

Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.

We sincerely hope that by putting the above measures in place we will avoid more restrictive measures needing to be implemented. We will of course continue to review local data and information from Public Health and the Government to ensure that our safety measures are fit for purpose.

Thank you for your ongoing support.
Kind regards,

Jo Grundy
Headteacher

Jon Wormald
Chair of Governors