

Sunday, 16th January, 2022

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF Y5 BUBBLE Monday 17th January to Friday 21st January 2022.

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have a number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school and the number has continued to rise over the weekend. For this reason we have had to take the difficult decision to close the Year 5 bubble from Monday 17th January to Friday 21st January 2022. We appreciate how hard this can be for parents but the safety of the staff and pupils remains our top priority.

Your child will return to school on Monday 24th January 2022.

We understand how concerning this is for everyone, please get in touch with school via email or telephone to share your concerns and for any further information.

School Ongoing Support Information

Your child will be able to access their school lessons and work via google classrooms from Monday 17th January 2022. On Monday your child will need to work from the isolation timetable, this is in their usual google classroom under day 1, the children know where to find this. From Tuesday 18th January Miss Loaring will be teaching the year 5 pupils on google classroom. A timetable for this will be provided on Monday.

Your child **must** take part in all remote learning, this **so important to ensure they do not miss any more learning** so that they can keep up with the progress they are making so well. Please do not disadvantage your child by letting them not take part in the daily timetable. All of the children know how to use the google classroom and turn in their work when it is complete. All of the teaching and support staff will be online to help your child. You must get in touch if we can support you in any way.

Please collect a laptop from the school office as soon as possible in the morning of the first day, a text has already been sent for you to let us know that you need one at home. We can also provide you with a FREE wificede if needed.

Free School Meals Information

If your child is eligible for free school meals, we will also be contacting you with details of how to receive this.



Following the national guidance we have identified that your child is a close contact with one of the affected individuals in year 5.

The current guidance states that contacts are strongly advised to take a LFT test every day for 7 days, they do not need to isolate unless they have a positive test result.

You must book a PCR if your child has symptoms – please remain vigilant around symptoms and self-isolate until the results are returned.

We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID-19 to others in the community.

Book a test online via <u>Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u> or by calling 119.

Please find below the latest guidance if your child has COVID-19 symptoms or have received a positive COVID-19 test result (the advice is for any individual in your house).

Stay at home and self-isolate

If you / your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, you / they need to stay at home and self-isolate immediately. If you/ they have a positive test result but do not have symptoms, stay at home and self-isolate as soon as you receive the results. You should do this even if you have received one or more doses of COVID-19 vaccine (children not applicable).

Other people in your household might need to isolate too. Please see section below for information on what the other members of your household need to do.

<u>Arrange to have a PCR test by ordering it online</u> or by calling 119 if you have not already had one. Stay at home while you are waiting for a home test kit, a test site appointment or a test result. You can leave your home in a few specific circumstances, but do not go to work, school, or public areas and do not use public transport or taxis. See circumstances in which you can leave home.

If you need to leave your home to get to a test site, wear a face covering, stay at least 2 metres apart from other people who you do not live with, and return home immediately afterwards.

If you are notified by NHS Test and Trace of a positive test result you must complete a period of self-isolation. Your isolation period starts immediately from when your symptoms started, or, if you do not have any symptoms, from when your positive LFD or PCR test was taken, whichever test was taken first. Your isolation



period includes the day your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you do not have symptoms), and the next 10 full days.

This means that if, for example, your symptoms started at any time on the 15th of the month (or if you did not have symptoms but your first positive COVID-19 test was taken on the 15th), your isolation period ends at 23:59hrs on the 25th of the month.

You can return to your normal routine and stop self-isolating after 10 full days if your symptoms have gone, or if the only symptoms you have are a cough or anosmia, which can last for several weeks. If you still have a high temperature after 10 days or are otherwise unwell, stay at home and seek medical advice.

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be <u>reported to NHS Test and Trace</u>.

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Further information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19 is available.

This guidance also applies to children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting.

Examples of when to end self-isolation if you have had COVID-19 symptoms or have received a positive COVID-19 test result

If both your LFD test results are negative, it is likely that you were not infectious at the time the tests were taken. To further reduce the chance of passing COVID-19 on to others, if you end your self-isolation period before 10 full days you are strongly advised:

- to limit close contact with other people outside your household, especially in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces
- to work from home if you are able to



- in addition to venues where it is a legal requirement, to wear a face covering in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces and where you are in close contact with other people
- to limit contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19
- to follow the <u>quidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread</u>

You should follow this advice until 10 full days from when your self-isolation period started.

You should not take any more LFD tests after the 10th day of your isolation period and you may stop self-isolating after this day. This is because you are unlikely to be infectious after the 10th day of your isolation period. Even if you have a positive LFD test result on the 10th day of your self-isolation period you should not take any more LFD tests after this day. If you are concerned you may choose to keep following the above advice until 14 days after the start of your self-isolation period.

There is additional guidance for those working in health and social care settings.

If you are isolating because of a positive test result but did not have any symptoms, and you develop COVID-19 symptoms within your isolation period, start a new isolation period from the day your symptoms start.

If you develop COVID-19 symptoms at any point after ending your first period of isolation you and your household should follow the steps in this guidance again.

Most people with COVID-19 will experience a mild illness. Seek prompt medical attention if your illness or the illness of someone in your household is worsening.

Stay as far away from other members of your household as possible. Wherever possible, avoid using shared spaces such as kitchens and other living areas while others are present and take your meals back to your room to eat. Wear a face covering or a surgical mask when spending time in shared areas inside your home.

Take exercise within your home, garden or private outdoor space. Follow the general advice to <u>reduce the spread of the infection</u> within your household.

It may be difficult for some people to separate themselves from others in their household. Not all these measures will be possible if you are living with children or have caring responsibilities but follow this guidance to the best of your ability in these circumstances.

If you receive a request by text, email or phone to log into the NHS Test and Trace service website you should do this. You will be asked about when your symptoms started. You should provide this information because it will be used to identify who has been in contact with you while you have been infectious.

You will be asked about your recent contacts so that they can be given public health advice. They will not be told your identity. It is very important that you provide this information, as it will play a vital role in helping to protect your family, friends and the wider community.



Visitors to your household

Do not invite or allow social visitors to enter your home, including friends and family. If you want to speak to someone who is not a member of your household, use the phone, email or social media.

If you or a family member receive essential care in your home, carers should continue to visit and follow the provision of home care guidance to reduce the risk of infection.

All non-essential in-house services and repairs should be postponed until the self-isolation period is completed. Delivery drivers should not come into your home, so make sure you ask them to leave items outside for collection.

If you have a negative COVID-19 PCR test result after being tested because you had symptoms

If your PCR test result is negative but you still have symptoms, you may have another viral illness such as a cold, flu or a stomach bug. You should stay at home until you feel well and for at least 2 more days if you have had diarrhoea or vomiting. Seek medical attention if you are concerned about your symptoms.

You can stop isolating unless you have been advised by <u>NHS Test and Trace that you are legally required to self-isolate</u>. Anyone in your household who is isolating because of your symptoms can also stop isolating.

Testing after your isolation period has ended

If you have tested positive by PCR for COVID-19, you will probably have developed some immunity to the disease. However, it cannot be guaranteed that everyone will develop immunity, or how long it will last. It is possible for PCR tests to remain positive for some time after the period of active COVID-19 infection.

If you have previously received a positive COVID-19 PCR test result, you are usually advised not to take another PCR test within 90 days of this result. You should only have a PCR test within 90 days of a previous positive PCR test if you develop any new symptoms of COVID-19, if you have a positive LFD test result, or if you are required to take a PCR test upon entry into the UK.

If you have a positive PCR test result within 90 days of a previous positive PCR test result you must stay at home, self-isolate and follow the steps in this guidance again.

If it is more than 90 days since you tested positive by PCR for COVID-19, and you have new symptoms of COVID-19, or a positive PCR test, follow the steps in this guidance again.



Further Information

Further information is available at https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Peters (Headteacher)

Mrs L Wright (Head of School)