



Discovery Drive Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4GJ

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Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Advice to All Parents – COVID 19

Further to my letter on Friday, I am writing to update you on the current situation in school with regards to COVID-19. There are a growing number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within our school. We have had confirmed cases within every class, with large outbreaks in Newton, Nightingale, Pasteur and Archimedes classes. We also continue to have a significant number of staff self-isolating due to their COVID-19 status.

The School will continue taking additional measures to try to limit the transmission of cases. As well as hygiene control and ventilation, this will include limiting the number of children gathering together inside the school, continuing with 'bubbles' inside the school building, suspending whole school assemblies and other events in the hall, restricting visitors coming into school wherever possible and restricting contact between year groups inside the school building. These additional steps have been agreed with Public Health England as sensible, preventative steps – we do not want there to be a return to remote learning as has had to be the case in other schools.

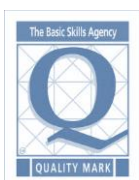
We know that you may find the current number of cases in school concerning but we wish to reassure you that that for most people, particularly children, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

The School is also acutely aware that the changing guidance on testing and self-isolating may be confusing. As such, please see below, some information which may be helpful:

### What has changed?

The self-isolation advice for people with coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed. It is now possible to end self-isolation after 5 full days if you have 2 negative LFD tests taken on consecutive days. The first LFD test should **not** be taken **before the fifth day** after your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you did not have symptoms). The self-isolation period remains 10 full days for those without negative results from 2 LFD tests taken a day apart.

**Please note that the first day of your symptoms or the day of testing positive is day zero – the following day is day 1**



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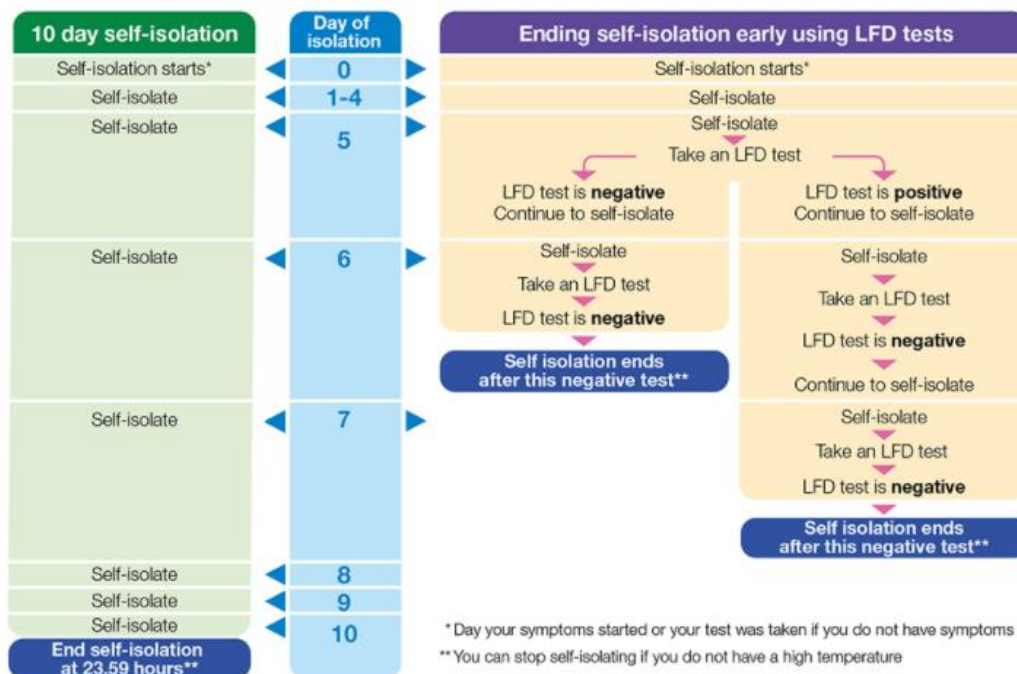
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You do not need to take a PCR test if you have already taken an LFD test and the result was positive, unless:

- you wish to claim the [Test and Trace Support Payment](#) – to claim the Test and Trace Support Payment, you must have tested positive for COVID-19 following a PCR test or an assisted LFD test
- you have received [an email or letter](#) from the NHS because of a health condition that means you may be suitable for new COVID-19 treatments – if this applies to you and you develop any COVID-19 symptoms, you should use the PCR test kit that was sent to you in the post for this purpose; if you have not received a PCR test kit you can [arrange to have a PCR test](#)
- you are taking LFD tests as part of research or surveillance programmes, and the programme asks you to take a follow-up PCR test
- you have a positive day 2 LFD test result [after you arrive in England from overseas](#)

Below is an easy to read diagram regarding current testing and self-isolation rules.

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





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Please also find a link below to the latest government guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

### Close contacts and self-isolation:

It continues to be the case that if you are identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, you do not need to self-isolate if:

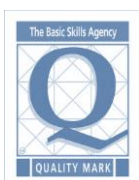
- you are fully vaccinated – fully vaccinated means you have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine, such as Pfizer BioNTech, AstraZeneca or Spikevax (formerly Moderna); you are also fully vaccinated if you have had one dose of the single-dose Janssen vaccine
- you are aged under 18 years
- you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

The Department for Education has stated that children that are close contacts of siblings or other family members with COVID-19, are expected to attend school unless they have tested positive themselves or are displaying symptoms. The Department of Education has also stipulated that if a child does not attend school, then he or she must be marked with an unauthorised absence.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office, where someone will be happy to assist.

Kind regards,

Miss T Gobell  
Head Teacher



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