



3rd January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very *Happy New Year!* I hope that you have all been keeping safe and well over the Christmas break and have enjoyed spending time with your families. I hope that the holiday has been kind to you and that 2022 has started well. I wanted to write to you to formally welcome you back to the start of the spring term at Shobnall Primary & Nursery School but also to update you with regards to the government's response to the coronavirus outbreak and what it means for education.

Although many of you will be concerned about the Omicron variant and the difficulties this could bring when education and many childcare settings re-open, the main message for us is that the government continues to prioritise face-to-face education as they recognise this is the best way for children and young people to learn. With this confirmed, we look forward to welcoming the children back on **Tuesday 4 January 2022**. There are no significant changes to our existing procedures, other than those outlined below, and I would advise you to re-read some of the key documentation that is available on the [Covid-19 Info](#) page on the school website, which will help re-familiarise yourselves and the children with our procedures after the Christmas holiday. Key documentation includes our latest risk assessment, outbreak management plan, arrangements for remote learning and the latest news on contact tracing and self-isolation. These will be kept under review and may change, dependent on those who may test positive for COVID-19 over the forthcoming weeks.

Information on the changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19

Since Wednesday 22 December 2021, 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 they do not have a high temperature, they may end the self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to their education setting from day 8.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation. Further information is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, 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 setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

We fully appreciate your ongoing support, understanding and patience during these difficult times and hope that normality will not be too far away this year! We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday!

Many thanks and kind regards,

Mr D. Adams
Head Teacher



"Happy children, inspired learners"

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