

Spring Guidance Summary – January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is clear that this term will involve significant levels of transmission within the local community and therefore the school community. Thankfully, the resulting level of illness appears mild in most cases; however, the level of absence this is likely to create will be a greater challenge.

The school has updated its risk assessment but with the apparent ease of transmission, it is clear that the focus of this term will be trying to educate with COVID and the high levels of staff and pupil absence, rather than preventing it. Therefore, in order to try and maintain sufficient staff to operate effectively, we would like to highlight some key aspects of the school's approach:

Testing

All staff have been asked to continue twice weekly testing and will be asked to do so before returning to school. Whilst there is no official advice for primary-aged pupils to do so, parents may wish to do so as a precaution if they have LFTs in your house, in-line with that being asked of secondary children. However, PHE have reminded schools that these are not appropriate for those under 5.

From the end of the last term, we have asked any staff with cold symptoms to take a PCR and to not rely on LFTs which are better suited to detecting asymptomatic cases. We cannot insist families to do the same, as we would with the three official symptoms, but we would suggest that this maybe something everyone should consider.

Students and staff would still return to school whilst awaiting results unless they are officially symptomatic or deemed unwell. However, we are happy to support families with remote learning in these situations where this is a logistical challenge.

Class Segregation

The playgrounds will remain separated by year group as the children seem to genuinely prefer this. We will also continue with online assemblies and pause rotation teaching with the class teacher staying with their class at all times.

The classes will continue to eat in the hall as a phase with each class well-separated and the children remaining seated in their class tables.

Within extended care, the tables will be returned to year group tables as we feel that this provides the best balance between social distancing and social development.

Reception will continue to share outside provision areas unless there is more than a single case known to have been in the class, as this is a key aspect of their provision.

Classes with known cases

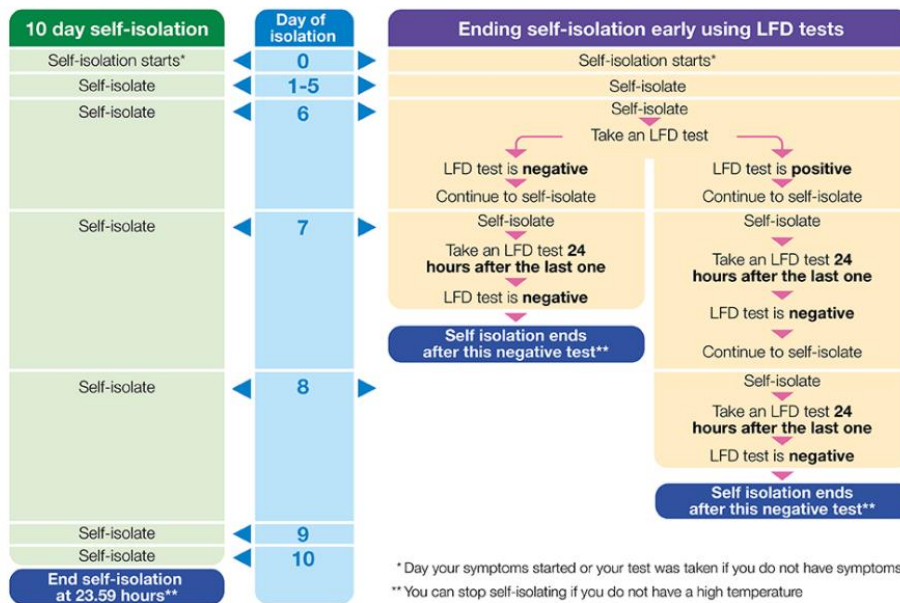
In reality, we may expect to find cases in every class within the coming weeks and therefore, the only real change will be trying to limit staff mixing between classes, wherever possible. However, with staff shortages expected this may not be possible and at times, classes may even have to be combined in order to remain open.

In addition, we will ask classes to keep children grouped in tables and try to ensure resources are not shared between different groups. This will not apply to Reception.

Returning from Isolation

Under current guidance, pupils can return on the 8th day after their test (if asymptomatic) or symptoms onset so long as they are non-symptomatic and have completed a negative LFT at the end of day 6 and 7 of isolation. Pupils should only return if they no longer have a temperature and therefore, we may ask to monitor the pupil's temperature upon their return. In addition, we will support parents who wish to be more cautious and 'work from home' during these days through live links if this is their preference.

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



Masks

Staff will be asked to wear masks or visor when not working within their own classrooms or sat at a desk. They will be advised to wear masks or use a screen when working closely with a pupil, although this may not always be practical.

Some older pupils have been wearing masks in class; this is fine but not a requirement.

School Events

There are no planned events for the spring term.

The only potential for mixing outside of the class environment are clubs, sporting events and swimming lessons.

At this point, these will continue as the educational value is seen to outweigh the risk, but additional distancing measures will be put in place.