

3 January 2022

Dear parent/carer

Return to school and COVID-19 Asymptomatic on-site testing on site in January

This letter is a reminder about the start of term details, which see a staggered return.

Updated guidance on face coverings

The Government guidance has been updated and it is recommended that on return to school this week, *face coverings are worn in classrooms where students in year 7 and above are educated*. This builds on the existing guidance that recommends face coverings in communal areas of the school.

Students must also wear a face covering when travelling on public transport and should wear it on dedicated transport to and from school.

Asymptomatic testing and return to school dates

As we shared with you before the festive break, the Government would like all secondary schools to prepare to test students once on-site on return in January. Testing continues to play a vital role in keeping COVID-19 out of schools, especially after a period of social mixing over the school holidays.

Once students have tested on site, they will be given their next pack of home test kits and need to test again 3-5 days later at home. They then need to get back in the routine of Sunday evening/Monday morning and Wednesday evening/Thursday morning testing at home.

Please see the table below for the COVID-19 testing schedule. When students come in to be tested, they do not need to wear uniform. They need to come in for their test and then leave site. Teaching on site for that year group will start the following day.

	Students testing		Students in school
	AM (9.30 - 12.30)	PM (13.00 - 15.10)	
Tuesday 4 January	Year 7	Year 11	None
Wednesday 5 January	Year 8	Year 10	Year 7 and 11
Thursday 6 January	Year 9		Year 7, 8, 10 and 11
Friday 7 January			All years

If you previously gave consent in September 2021 for your child to be tested, then you do not need to give consent again, we will be working on the basis that all consents still stand.

These children will have been receiving home test kits. If your child has not been getting test kits it is likely to be because consent was not re-completed in September 2021.

If you would like your child to be tested on site but they have not been tested before, or you need to give consent again, then, please complete the consent form below.

<https://forms.gle/xmgJyKQNpHcKLHsSA>

We will not test students who do not have consent to be tested, and students are only to attend school on the testing date mentioned above, **if** they are being tested.

The guidance has also been updated in relation to those who have tested positive in the last 90 days and now states that *even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing on-site through ATS or at home once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.*

If your child is unable to attend this session, please ask them to test at home before returning to school on the allocated day and report the result to the Government and to us via the link on the website.

Home learning via Google Classroom will be provided for students on the days that there is not on site teaching taking place. Lessons will be delivered following the student's normal timetable. **w/c 3 January 2022 is Week 2.**

The Government guidance about self-isolation has been updated over the break.

For information the current full guidance that we work to is here: [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection)

There are a few main messages though:

If your child lives in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they are not legally required to self-isolate (if under 18 years and 6 months). However, if aged 5 years and older, they are strongly advised to

- take an LFD test every day for 7 days, or until 10 days after the household member who has COVID-19 started their self-isolation period if this is earlier.
- take this daily LFD test before they leave home for the first time that day

However, **if they develop [symptoms](#) at any time, even if these are mild**, they must stay at home and self-isolate immediately, [arrange to have a COVID-19 PCR test](#) and follow the [guidance for people with COVID-19 symptoms](#).

If they do not have symptoms but test positive on LFD, they should stay at home and self-isolate immediately. They should [arrange to have a PCR test](#) as soon as possible. If this PCR test result is positive, they must continue to self-isolate.

There is updated guidance for adults and those aged over 18 years, 6 months in relation to vaccination status and isolation advice.

[Links to guidance](#)

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Return to on site lessons and the term ahead.

Please ensure that your child returns to on-site teaching from their allocated day (found on the table at the start of this letter). We expect all students to return on time, in full school uniform and with equipment and an attitude ready to learn.

As always, hand and respiratory hygiene remain key, as is regular twice weekly LFD testing at home. We will update you with any new Government guidance when we receive it.

Thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Begley". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Karen Begley
Executive Deputy Headteacher/Head of School