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Dear Parents/Carers

Much has changed over the half-term break, with two issues uppermost in everybody's mind: Covid and the crisis in Ukraine. An update on the school's stance regarding both is provided below.

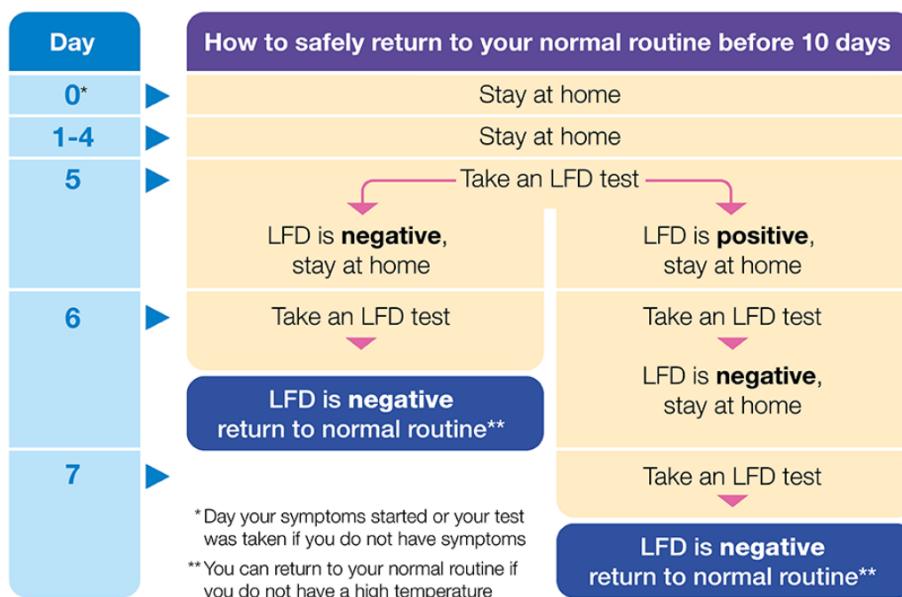
### **Covid 19**

While the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive Covid test has been removed, **the national health guidance remains the same, and will be followed in school exactly as before half-term.**

Hence:

- **No-one who has symptoms of Covid-19, or who has tested positive, should attend the school site** until a period of self-isolation (described below) has been completed – this applies to pupils and all adults (including staff).
- Therefore, **children will still be sent home, and advised to access a PCR test, if they begin to exhibit Covid 19 symptoms in school.**
- The full self-isolation period (during which children should not attend school) is still for 10 days after the day of a positive test or the onset of symptoms (this is day zero).
- However, **children can take LFD tests on day 5 and day 6 (taken 24 hours apart) - if both are negative, and completed before school, the child may return to school on day 6.** Please report these results via <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and send the school a screenshot of both confirmations. (Free LFD tests will still be available until April 1<sup>st</sup>).
- If either of the day 5/6 tests are positive, the child may continue to take daily LFD tests (24 hours apart) until they have two negative tests on consecutive days (e.g. day 8 and 9) – they may then return to school on the day of the second test. Again, please send us the confirmations.

#### How to safely return to your normal routine before 10 days



**COVID-19: people with COVID-19 and their contacts** Published 24 February 2022



For your information, **guidance that has been removed is as follows:**

- Close contacts of a positive case do not need to take a daily LFD test for 7 days.
- Routine contact tracing has ended.
- Regular LFD tests are no longer required of staff or pupils.
- Threshold guidance for schools, identifying the number of cases in a class at which additional measures (and contact with the local health agency) may be advised, has been changed.

The **main symptoms of COVID-19** are still the recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child develops any of these symptoms, then arrangements should be made for them to take a PCR test as soon as possible. Your child should remain at home while awaiting the PCR test result.

Testing can be arranged by calling 119 or via the NHS website: [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)

**Please keep us informed of the result of the PCR test.**

### **Other School Specific Guidance**

1. Please keep your distance from teaching staff if passing on a brief message at drop-off/pick-up (anything that requires longer than a few moments to communicate should be passed on via telephone or class email).
2. If attending a meeting at school, please wear a face covering when doing so.

**This guidance will be reviewed at the spring break, or earlier if required.**

### **The Ukraine Crisis**

The disastrous situation in Ukraine is a cause for global concern and, we feel, too extreme for children of primary age to engage with in any meaningful way in school without giving rise to considerable anxiety. After two years of Covid, the children should not have to deal with this as well. Therefore, we will not be initiating any whole-class discussions on the topic, neither will we be facilitating access to sources of news (e.g. Newsround, children's newspaper) at present.

However, in a similar manner to sex/relationships education, children will have very different levels of knowledge and understanding of the situation based on their age, family context, access to the internet etc. Some children, therefore, may raise the matter themselves. In this case, any discussion will be limited by staff to a statement that the situation is very sad and difficult, and pointing out that Ukraine is a long way away from the UK.

We feel that parents/carers are best placed to discuss the situation with their children at home, if they wish, assessing their level of understanding and emotional maturity – the following link may be of help in this respect:

<https://inews.co.uk/news/russia-invading-ukraine-how-talk-children-honest-reassuring-way-explained-1483956>

We will be distributing contact information for an organisation assisting the humanitarian effort in Ukraine – this will be sent to adults via the text system (engagement with the organisation is of course voluntary).

Yours sincerely,



Duncan Rose  
Headteacher