



St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope everyone has had a happy and restful Christmas. We look forward to welcoming all the children back to school tomorrow.

As is now becoming the norm, with a new school term also comes new government guidance for reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 at schools. Please find details of the recent changes below. All other existing measures that were in place before the holidays will continue as before.

Changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19

Since Wednesday 22 December, 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 the individual does not have a high temperature, they may end their 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](#).

As a school, we will continue to ensure there is good ventilation in classrooms. Please can you make sure that pupils are wearing lots of layers to stay warm so that windows and doors can be kept open when necessary.

As a school community we have done a fantastic job to reduce the risk to our pupils. This has resulted in very low numbers of positive cases relative to other schools. As we enter a new year, we ask everyone in our school community to keep up this huge effort in keeping our school safe.

Yours sincerely

Mr Croghan
Headteacher

Worthing Deanery Schools



Journeying Together in Christ

