

## STAFFING NEWS

We are delighted to inform you that, we have appointed a new Teaching Assistant to work in the school. Miss E. Ritchie will be joining us from Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January, and will work in our Key Stage 1 classrooms. Miss Ritchie is an experienced and capable Teaching Assistant, and we look forward to her arrival.

## COVID-19 UPDATE:

With the rise in the extremely transmissible Omicron variant, it is even more important that we remain vigilant and committed to minimising the risks of its spread in the school. Last week, attendance was again very good (about 96%), although several children are known to have caught Covid-19 and are self-isolating.

Since the end of last term, 9 members of staff have caught Covid-19, and currently 3 are absent from work due to it.

## UPDATED PROCEDURES AND GUIDANCE:

As well as the original Covid symptoms (cough, loss/change of taste or smell and fever) other symptoms that seem to be common for the Omicron variant which accounts for almost all infections in the country, are headache, runny nose, sneezing, sore throat and tiredness.

Following the recent government announcements on testing and self-isolation, the following procedures will apply in the school. These replace any previous advice given to parents by the school, and will operate from Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

1) A child testing positive using a Lateral Flow Device Test (L.F.D. Test), **who does not have any symptoms**, does not need to have a P.C.R. Test, but must self-isolate for at least 7 days from the date of the test (which is counted as Day 1).

**L.F.D. Tests should be used on Day 6 and Day 7. If both of these are negative the child can return to school on the next school day. These negative tests must be registered on the government website [www.gov.uk/report-covid-19-result](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid-19-result). If either of the Day 6 or Day 7 L.F.D test results are positive, the child must remain at home for the full 10-day self-isolation period unless two consecutive negative results are obtained before then.**

2) A child **who has Covid symptoms** (see symptoms list above) must be kept away from school and have a P.C.R. Test, even if they have had a positive L.F.T. Device result. The 7-day period of isolation will begin on the first day of symptoms (unless Test and Trace state otherwise).

**L.F.D. Tests should be used on Day 6 and Day 7. If both of these are negative the child can return to school on the next school day. These negative tests must be registered on the government website [www.gov.uk/report-covid-19-result](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid-19-result). If either of the Day 6 or Day 7 L.F.D test results are positive, the child must remain at home for the full 10 day self-isolation period unless two consecutive negative results are obtained before then.**

3) If for any reason, a child has a positive P.C.R. Test without a positive lateral flow test or without symptoms, the day of the P.C.R. Test will count as Day 1, **and the procedures above should be followed.**

### **POSITIVE CASES OF COVID-19 IN THE HOUSEHOLD:**

If a member of the household tests positive for Covid-19, whether they have symptoms or not, please take the following voluntary steps, which will reduce the risk of transmission of the virus in the school.

- a) Keep your child at home for 2 days to see if they develop any symptoms.
- b) On the morning of Day 3, give your child a L.F.D. Test. If this is negative your child can come to school that day.
- c) Continue to give your child a L.F.D. Test on Days 4 and 5 to check that they remain negative.
- d) Should your child develop symptoms or test positive using a L.F.T. Device, then keep them at home and refer to the procedures above.

### **MASK WEARING:**

There is no requirement for primary-aged children to wear masks. However, if individual parents wish for their child to wear a mask in school, then this will be allowed. Please let the school office know if this will be the case.

Adults visiting the school office, should wear a mask when they enter the Reception Area. Only one adult/family should be in the Reception Area at a time. Please wait outside until the area is free.

If you have any concerns or doubts about any aspect of the above, or anything else related to Covid-19, please telephone the school office for guidance.