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Headteacher: Mr K Flanagan

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to thank you and your children for helping with the return to school this term. Despite the challenges of wearing masks and the LFT testing the students have returned to school in a positive frame of mind and we are working together to ensure as much as possible that the school is operating as normal as possible with extra-curricular clubs returning. We are however aware that there has been a range of changes to isolation periods and PCR testing that we thought it pertinent to clarify for everyone.

Currently we have 61 students absent who have tested positive either at home or at school. This is the highest figure by some considerable difference. The new rules mean that students with a positive test result should self-isolate at home for seven full days. This seven days does not include the day of the positive LFD test as this is essentially day 0. Students should then take an LFD test on day 6 and day 7, if these are both negative they can return to school on day 8 however if they are still positive (and **you** have to test them) they must remain at home for the complete 10 days isolation.

After 10 days all students should then return to school regardless of whether the LFD remains positive as it can still read as positive for up to 90 days.

As an example, if your child tests positive on the LFD test on Monday they must then isolate at least until the following Monday, completing an LFD test on day 6 & 7 (Sunday & Monday). If both these tests remain negative and they do not have a high temperature, they will return on the Tuesday (day 8) however if both of the tests or one are positive isolation continues – Thursday would be day 10 of isolation and your child would return to school on the Friday.

Self-isolation means your child should not go to school, attend any out of school activities or visit a friend's house. They should not visit any public places, use public transport or go out to exercise. You should not have visitors into the home except for those providing essential care.

You no longer need to take a PCR test to confirm the LFD test result unless you have symptoms.

If your child has symptoms they should still aim to book a postal or walk-in PCR test regardless of home testing results. Currently PCR tests are in extreme short supply however if a PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the LFD test and your child can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

If you are a close contact of someone with COVID 19 you are not legally required to isolate. Instead, such people will be now advised to test all close contacts in the home daily during the seven-day isolation period. This means that if there are siblings in the home that they can continue to attend school as long as their daily LFD test continues to be negative.

Regardless of age or vaccination status, anyone who develops any of the three main COVID-19 symptoms:

- new continuous cough and/or
- fever (temperature of 37.8°C or higher)
- loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

must get a PCR test **or** take an LFD test as soon as possible and isolate until the result is available. People who get a positive PCR test must continue to isolate for 7 days in lines with current guidance. Anyone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR or LFD test should self-isolate until the latest of:

- 7 days after the onset of their symptoms or a positive PCR or LFD test if they have 2 negative test results on day 6 and 7 of isolation, or
- 10 days after their test day if they continue to test positive.

Self-isolation means that your child stays at home for 10 days, unless they take a lateral flow test on days six and seven with both of these tests being negative, then if they have no symptoms they can return on day 8.

Please share with school your notification of results from a PCR or positive LFD taken at home by emailing: **returntoschool@psf.wirral.sch.uk**

Remote Learning

If isolating with COVID students will be set work at home to complete if they are well enough. This work will be set on Teams and all students have been shown how to log onto the system however they can email their Head of Year if they have any difficulties.

Please be aware that we will always try our best to ensure work is provided however we also have staff who are isolating and are trying our best to keep school running therefore these lessons will not be 'live' lessons and will not always be set at the time of their normal lesson. Equally we cannot put work on-line immediately after being told of a self-isolation as we do need time to inform staff who will already be teaching. If you need anything in the short term there are excellent resources available free through [Oak National Academy \(thenational.academy\)](https://www.thenational.academy/). We hope you understand that whilst we will try our best it might not be perfect.

Any queries, questions or concerns please contact your child's Head of Year.

Yours sincerely



Kevin Flanagan
Headteacher