

3rd January 2022

Dear parent / carer,

Happy New Year! We hope everyone has enjoyed the festive period and managed to stay safe. We are looking forward to welcoming back all the children to school on Tuesday 4th January.

Please be aware of new DfE guidance regarding Covid-19 released on 2nd January. Below is a breakdown of how the school plans to adapt to these new measures as well as taking account on the increase in COVID-19 cases nationally due to the omicron variant.

Before returning to school

Where possible, please complete an LFD test on your child before starting back on Tuesday 4th January to check they are negative. If your child is unwell, please do not send them in to school.

Start and end times

This will remain as they have been but we ask parents and family members to wear a mask, especially upon collection where it is more congested.

Wearing masks

All staff will be wearing a mask indoors during the school day, in communal areas. Children are not required to wear a face mask onsite, but if you wish your child to wear a mask we have no objections to this.

Ventilation

We are required to ventilate each classroom and communal area to prevent the spread of any COVID cases in school. Each classroom will have windows open. Children are welcome to wear their PE hooded tops, or navy/dark zip up tops in addition to their normal school uniform to keep warm.

Reporting your child's absence

If your child is unwell, please remember to report their absence following the normal procedure, including the reason they are poorly, by phoning the school office on 01933 353761 by 9:00am at the latest. Alternatively, you can email the office on office@newtonroadschool.co.uk

Timetabling and Uniform

I am sure you appreciate at the moment we are having to make timetabling adjustments. Therefore a message will be sent tomorrow confirming which days your child needs to wear their PE kit. On all other days your child is expected to wear full school uniform.

COVID-19 related absence

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, however mild, please book a PCR test within 48 hours of the symptoms starting. Symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- A new, continuous cough, and/or
- A temperature, and/or

- A loss of, or change to, sense of taste and/or smell.

If the result from the PCR test is negative, your child can return to school if they feel well enough to do so.

Self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19

The full 10-day self-isolation period has changed for anyone with a positive PCR test result.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on Day 6 and Day 7 of their self-isolation period. If each LFD test shows a negative test result, they are no longer required to complete the full 10 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. **These dates will be confirmed with the school admin team when you report your child's positive test result. Please keep us updated of any results.**

If both LFD test results are negative on Day 6 AND Day 7, and your child does not have a high temperature, they may end the self-isolation period after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from Day 8. The DFE guidance is slightly different to the GOV website in the date of return.

If your child tests positive on either Day 6 or Day 7, you will need to wait a further 24 hours before testing again to achieve 2 negative results in a row. 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 7 days**, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

As long as your child remains negative through daily testing, they can continue to attend the school setting as normal.

Thank you for your continued support of Newton Road School.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Kerry Mills

Miss Kerry Mills
Principal