



26th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Update re COVID-19

We are continuing to monitor the numbers of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the school. Unfortunately, we currently have outbreaks in Caspian and Pyrenees Classes and a number of children and staff testing positive across the school. As you will appreciate, this picture changes daily and often spikes after a weekend. The changes in isolation periods also determine outbreak durations.

As we have said previously, an 'outbreak' constitutes of 10% of a class or cohort testing positive for COVID-19, which is 3 children for a class, or 9 for a year group.

We continue to follow our Outbreak Plan and current measures in school are as follows:

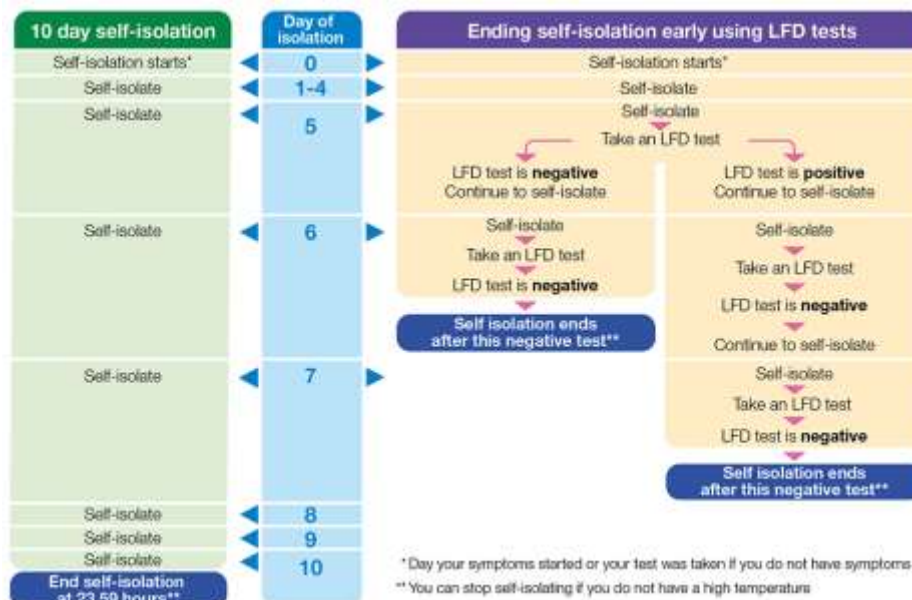
- Children in outbreak classes remain in class bubbles.
- Outbreak classes will avoid the use of shared spaces, where possible.
- All year groups are in year group bubbles when inside, with minimal contact with other year groups when outside.
- Staff wear masks in all communal areas.
- Increased cleaning of shared touch spaces such as door handles.
- Increased handwashing and ventilation in the classrooms.

We will continue to request that any parents/carers/visitors entering our school grounds wear a face covering (unless exempt). When entering our school building, visitors must wear a face covering to protect our staff and school community, due to our current outbreak situation.

Positive Cases and Isolation – Updated 17th January 2022

From 17th January 2022 changes came into force relating to the isolation period for confirmed positive COVID cases. The previous seven-day period of isolation has now been reduced to five days, providing the person can return a negative Lateral Flow test result on day five and day six. The first test must be taken no earlier than day five and the two tests must be taken 24 hours apart. Anyone who is unable to carry out a lateral flow test should complete the full ten-day isolation period.

Please see below the most recent guidance regarding self-isolation:



We will continue to log positive cases in school and use the information provided by you to track absence and also update the Local Authority, when appropriate. For this reason, please continue to let the school office know if your child is not going to be in school.

Children (and fully vaccinated adults) who have been identified as a close contact of a positive case, are asked to test daily (LFTs) rather than isolate, and as long as they deliver negative results, they should continue to attend school. If they return a positive LFT result they should then self-isolate. If they develop symptoms, they should also request a PCR test. Depending on the outcome they can follow the timings for isolation as above.

Remote Provision

This will be for as short a period as possible and of course, will very much be a last resort. We will always provide face to face teaching where we can and that will be our ultimate aim, unless we are unable to staff this adequately due to absence.

Should your child be absent for COVID related reasons, but be well, work will be provided by Google Classroom and other online platforms.

If your child is currently positive with COVID please email: admin@peartreespring.herts.sch.uk with their isolation dates.

Yours sincerely

M Newhouse

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