



4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer(s)

**Re: COVID update January 2022**

Happy New Year to all our Peartree Spring families. I hope that you have all enjoyed the last few weeks and have had some quality family time together.

**Updated Government Guidelines**

**Current Practice**

The majority of guidelines issued do not apply to primary-aged pupils and as such, there are no significant changes to our practice at Peartree Spring Primary School. We implemented aspects of our outbreak management plan in the second half of the Autumn Term and I have made the decision to keep some of these practices in place at the start of the Spring Term. These mainly revolve around assemblies and whole school mixing and to this end, assemblies will either be digitally delivered or blended for the foreseeable future.

We will be continuing with the current request that any parents/carers/visitors entering our school grounds wear a face covering (unless exempt). When entering our school building, all visitors must wear a face covering to protect our staff and school community. We will continue to open all gates just before 8.45am each morning. If your child is a lone walker please make sure they are leaving at an appropriate time and not arriving at school too early. Some children have been arriving before 8:30am and I would remind all parents that the children are unsupervised by school staff until the gates are opened.

**Positive Cases and Isolation**

From 22nd December, changes came into force relating to the isolation period for confirmed positive COVID cases. The previous ten-day period of isolation has now been reduced to seven days, providing they can return a negative Lateral Flow test result on day six and day seven. The first test must be taken no earlier than day six 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.

Headteacher: Mrs T Skeggs

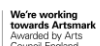
Deputy Headteachers: Miss P Foley and Mrs M Newhouse

Peartree Spring Primary School, Hydean Way, Stevenage, Herts, SG2 9GG

Telephone: 01438 233900 Fax: 01438 233901

Email: [admin@peartreespring.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@peartreespring.herts.sch.uk)

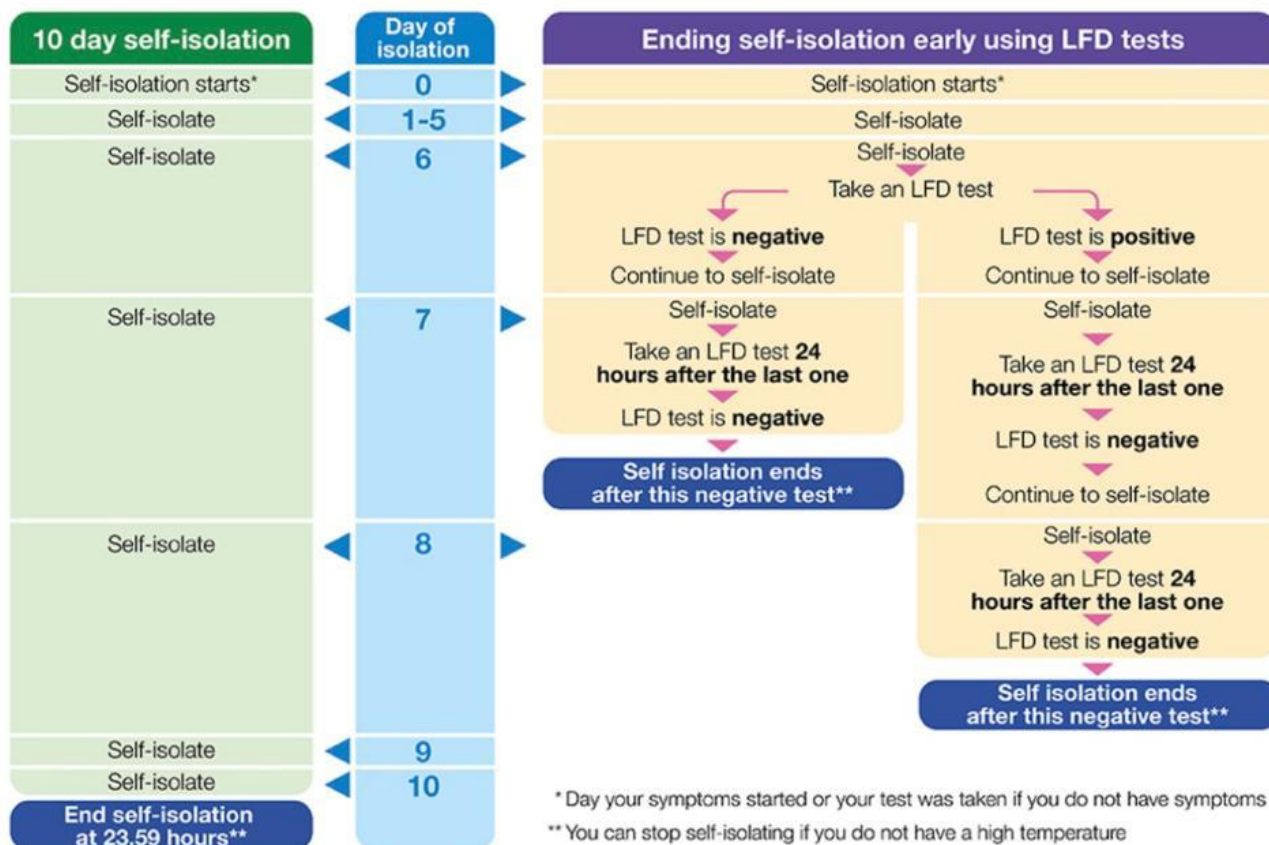
Website: [www.peartreespringjm.herts.sch.uk](http://www.peartreespringjm.herts.sch.uk)



2020-2023

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

## Examples of when to end self-isolation if you have had COVID-19 symptoms or have received a positive COVID-19 test result



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 let the school office know if your child is not going to be in school and also the reason for the absence. Please bear in mind that we are not privy to any parent communication groups (WhatsApp etc) and so please contact the school in a timely manner so that we can make the relevant arrangements and have informed discussions with Public Health Herts. The office team will be following up any unexplained absences on a regular basis so providing full information on symptoms helps reduce the number of phone calls being made each day. There was some suggestion online that we receive automatic alerts from the NHS when there is a positive case, unfortunately this is not the case and we rely solely on information provided by parents.

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 result or have symptoms, then they should isolate and request a PCR test. Depending on the outcome they can follow the timings for isolation as above.

### Remote Provision

The Government has made it possible in this latest set of guidance to switch to remote provision for a class or group of pupils should a school not be able to adequately (and safely) staff the teaching in school. 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.

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

**Additional measures in school:**

- Children are in class with minimal interaction between classes.
- Classes will avoid the use of shared spaces, where possible.
- All year groups are in year group bubbles when inside, with very 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.

If your child is currently positive with COVID please email [admin@peartreespring.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@peartreespring.herts.sch.uk) with their isolation dates so we can amend the registers accordingly prior to the school term and your child's teacher can make any necessary contact.

We look forward to seeing you all again on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Yours sincerely

*T Skeggs*

Mrs T Skeggs  
Executive Headteacher.