



Dane Bank Primary School

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Monday 10th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer(s),

COVID Update/Information

As you will be aware, since the discovery of the new Omicron COVID variant, there have been a number of changes to national guidance. I thought it may be helpful to summarise the changes which may affect us here at school below:

1. From 11th January, the **requirement for confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow test is being removed**. This means that anyone using a lateral flow test when they don't have any symptoms who tests positive should immediately upload the results online and continue isolating. Once they upload their test result, this will trigger contact tracing and the follow up emails/phone calls from NHS Test & Trace.
2. If you receive a 'Warn & Inform' letter from school suggesting your child may be a contact of a positive COVID case, we strongly advise parents that your child take a daily lateral flow test before coming to school for the next few days. This should help us identify early if there are follow up cases and we can take necessary actions.
3. If you receive a 'Warn & Inform – Multiple Cases' letter from school, this suggests we are becoming concerned of a potential 'outbreak' and hence, we politely request your child takes a PCR test to rule out further infection. Again, this will help us plan for necessary actions. **As a school we would be grateful if parents shared proof of children's test results once they are received as this gives us greater assurance that our data is accurate.**
4. Before Christmas, there was a change to the national guidance for confirmed cases. **Anyone isolating who has tested positive for COVID-19 can do lateral flow tests on day 6 and day 7 and if both are negative, they can stop isolating**. This will mean that any pupils or staff members in this situation could return to school/college. If they are still positive on day 6 or 7 they can try again the next day. They must have 2 negative tests taken at least 24 hours apart to end their isolation early. If people do not take LFTs while isolating, or if their LFTs continue to come back positive up to day 10, they should continue to isolate for the full 10 days but then do not need to continue testing and can end isolation after day 10, even if their LFTs are still positive.
5. Also before Christmas, there was a change to the advice for close contacts. **Any under 18s or fully vaccinated adults who are identified as a close contact are now being advised to complete daily LFTs for seven days** rather than go for a one-off PCR test. This is advice, not a condition of entry to school.

Thank you for all your ongoing support as we continue to navigate our way through these challenging times. If you are unsure of any of the guidance, or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will do all we can to support you.

Kind regards,

Joanne Lennon
Acting Headteacher

