



Sledmere C of E (VC) Primary School

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4th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I wish you all a Happy New Year and hope that you all enjoyed a relaxing break over the Christmas period. We are all looking forward to welcoming back your children on Wednesday 5th January.

We are all aware of the national and local position regarding COVID, however I would like to re-assure you that our intention is to keep school functioning as normally as possible and to minimise any potential disruption to your child's education.

It is likely that at some point COVID may impact on your child or your child's class. With this in mind, we continue to follow DfE, Public Health England and Local Authority advice and guidance closely. We are continuing to:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone. Adults and pupils should clean their hands regularly. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.
5. We will also continue to promote good respiratory hygiene and, 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' messages to encourage children to catch coughs and sneezes in a tissue and dispose of it in the nearest waste bin.
6. Staff will continue to wear face coverings/ masks in communal areas.

In addition, visitors to school will be limited and we will expect visitors to take a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test prior to their appointment. We would strongly urge all parents and carers to wear a face covering (unless exempt) whilst on school grounds.

Should we need to implement any additional measures, we will take prompt guidance from Public Health and the Local Authority. I will keep you updated over the next few weeks about any changes as they occur.

Attendance is still mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age.

CHANGES TO THE SELF-ISOLATION PERIOD FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

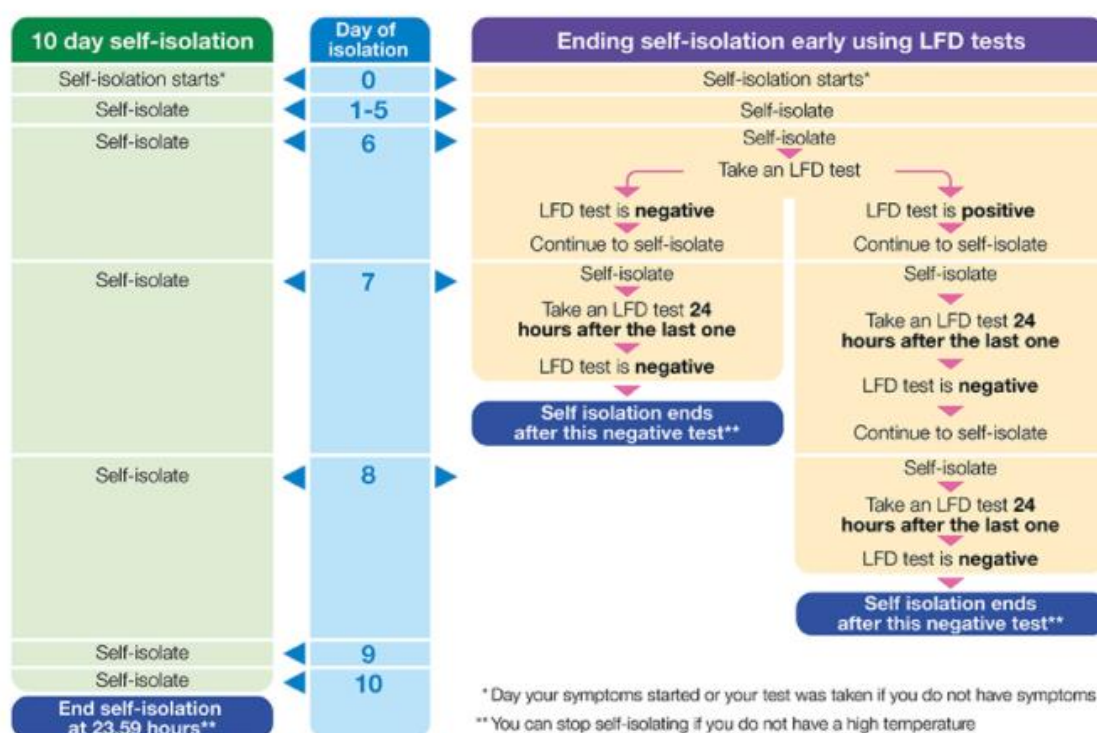
From Wednesday 22nd December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test for COVID-19 was reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative tests results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and test must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result. This means that children can return to school from day 8.

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 coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection)

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



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 seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is in contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start their daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection)

JOINT COMMITTEE ON VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION (JCVI) ADVICE ON

Children aged 5 to 11 years in a clinical risk group or who are a household contact of someone who is immunosuppressed, will be offered two doses of the vaccine, 8 weeks apart. Further advice about vaccinations for this group can be found at:

[JCVI statement on COVID-19 vaccination of children and young people: 22 December 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-statement-on-covid-19-vaccination-of-children-and-young-people-22-december-2021)

As a parent myself, I understand that this time may feel very unsettled for many children and adults. I would like to reiterate the desire of the entire school community to support every individual and we are determined to continue to allow every child in our care to thrive and enjoy all our Federation has to offer.

Your faithfully,

Peter Richardson

Executive Headteacher

