

4th January 2022

Dear parents and carers

Happy New Year to you all! I am writing with a few reminders before students come in to school tomorrow.

Face masks

As you will have seen in the media, the DfE has asked schools to ensure that face masks are worn at all times when students and staff are indoors, including in lessons. Face masks are also expected on all school transport and service buses. Fairfield has been following this policy since the end of September so there will be no change for our students. We are very grateful for everyone's compliance on this issue, which is helping us all to remain covid-free and keeping school open. **Please ensure that your child has at least one face mask – we do not have supplies of paper masks to give out.**

Testing

Please encourage your child and the rest of your household to complete a lateral flow test (LFT) twice a week. This is important so that any infections can be spotted quickly. We will be asking students to test at school first thing tomorrow. All students will be expected to do this unless you have not given permission previously (you do not need to give it again).

Hand Sanitiser

Please encourage your child to use hand sanitiser and to have a small bottle in their bag which can be used during the school day and on their journey to and from school.

Isolation due to Covid

Please see below the latest government information about Covid-19 infections. If your child has a positive LFT they will need to confirm it via a PCR test. Please let us know if you have a positive LFT or PCR result. If your child is still unwell or tests positive after the isolation period has ended, then please inform us but do not send them back to school.

Clarification on the changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19

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

Individuals may now take lateral flow tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test 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 tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LF 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 and return to your education or childcare setting from day 7.

Anyone who is unable to take lateral flow tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Further information, including examples of when to end self-isolation if you have had COVID-19 symptoms, is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

Remote learning

If your child is well enough, there will be work for them to access on Google Classroom as normal. We will not automatically provide live-streamed lessons; if a member of staff feels this is necessary, they will contact students directly to give them log-on details.

Keeping warm in school

Whilst the weather has been milder than usual, we are trying to maintain good ventilation in school. If students feel the cold, please ensure they are wearing a warm layer under their uniform (eg tights under trousers; long sleeved base layer etc) and have thick socks and strong shoes, together with a warm and waterproof outdoor coat. **Please name all items!!**

Looking forward to seeing everyone tomorrow!

Best wishes



Sue Gaston