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Headteacher Miss Lynn Black



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Dear Parent/Carer

Safe Return to School

I hope this letter finds you well. As we prepare for pupils to return to school tomorrow the following information is shared to ensure we return safely and ensure we do our best to keep everyone safe going forward.

In light of the Omicron variant, you will be aware that the Scottish Government have made a number of changes to the Covid-19 guidance. We will continue with all of our safety mitigations outlined in our risk assessment and in previous correspondence.

Lateral Flow Testing

Scottish Government have continued to stress the importance of regular LFD testing especially before a return to school. Test kits are available from the school office and can be collected at intervals and lunchtimes.

Where possible we would expect pupils **and staff to test twice weekly as a minimum e.g. Sunday night and Wednesday morning**. Please ensure that results are registered through the UK portal; <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

As pupils return tomorrow, we ask that all pupils take a test tonight or before school tomorrow morning and record their result.

The latest advice makes clear that those who have tested positive within 90 days should also continue to participate in routine asymptomatic LFD testing.

Self-Isolation

There are a number of changes to the self-isolation guidance, which I have summarised for you below:

- **Positive cases** are advised to self-isolate for 10 days. However, if the individual returns two consecutive negative LFD tests taken at least 24 hours apart on Day 6 and Day 7 and if they have no fever they may end isolation and return to school. This would include a return on Day 7 if the negative LFD test is taken before school.

- **Close contacts** who are fully vaccinated; this means after 3 doses of the vaccine with 14 days after the third dose **or are aged under 18 years and 4 months**, can take daily LFD tests for 7 days instead of isolation – provided the tests are negative and they remain without symptoms.
- Those who have tested positive for Covid-19 within 90 days should still participate in appropriate daily LFD testing in line with NHS guidance when they are identified as contacts.
- Please note that the above changes **do not apply** to confirmed cases and close contacts identified up to and including Wednesday 5th January.

In terms of Covid-19 symptoms and test results, the following applies:

- Anyone who develops symptoms of Covid-19 (high temperature, new continuous cough or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste) must self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test. They must do so even if they have a negative LFD test.
- Anyone who has a positive LFD test result with no symptoms, and then goes on to develop symptoms, does not need a confirmatory PCR test unless advised by a clinician. The only exception applies when the individual, parent/guardian or carer is planning on applying for the Self-Isolation Support Grant, in which case a confirmatory positive PCR is required.
- In summary, anyone testing positive on an LFD or PCR test must self-isolate for 10 days regardless of age or vaccination status. However, if the person tests negative on Day 6 and Day 7 LFD tests (taken at least 24 hours apart, with the first test no earlier than Day 6) they may leave isolation if they have no fever after their Day 7 test.

When pupils return tomorrow, our staff team will be vigilant to any potential signs of Covid-19 and will always err on the side of caution in contacting parents/carers. It will be helpful for us if you continue to alert us if your child has tested positive when reporting an absence either on the website or by telephone/email.

Ventilation

In order to ensure the school is well-ventilated classroom window will be open. We advise that pupils should dress for school with warm clothes that are in line with our school uniform policy. Winter coats are also advised; pupils should expect to be outside at every opportunity during intervals and lunchtimes to allow for periods of prolonged ventilation.

School Catering

As intimated before the holidays, this is a gentle reminder that there will be no school catering available in January and early February. We will keep you updated as to when this is likely to change. For those eligible and in receipt of free school meals BACs payments will be made on Tuesday, payments cover 11th January to 5th February.

Equipped for Learning - Chrome Books

Almost all students now have their own Chromebook. Pupils should make sure that their Chromebook is fully charged and bring it to school every day. If students are having any problems with their Chromebook, they should speak to their teachers, Mr Neil or Mrs Wren.

As always, thank you for your continued support and please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Best wishes

L Black

Lynn Black
Headteacher