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NEWSLETTER 09 - 11th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been lovely to see all the children enjoying being back at school and I would like to say a particularly warm welcome to those children who have joined us in Nursery this term. They are already busy making new friends!

The Information below relates to Covid and is information I have taken from the Department for Education, it comes under the heading of "warn and inform" parents/carers.

We have been advised that there have been confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school setting. Currently pupils have tested positive from Nursery and Willow classes.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are providing the following advice. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well. We encourage household members that are aged 11 and over to continue with twice weekly LFD testing to help identify cases promptly.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or tests positive for COVID-19

If your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known. If negative, the child can end self-isolation; if positive, the child should isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared. This 10 day isolation period can be ended early on day 7 where two negative LFD tests are taken 24 hours apart on days 6 and 7 but NHS Test and Trace will be able to advise you of this.

Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test (the normally available test type) and this can be arranged via [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-a-free-pcr-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus) or by calling 119.

Instructions for people who live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 (tested positive or symptomatic awaiting a test result)

From 14 December, anyone aged 5 years and over who lives in the same household as someone with COVID-19 and who is not legally required to self-isolate is now strongly advised to take an LFD test every day for 7 days. If any of these LFD tests are positive they should self-isolate in order to protect other people.

If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting or workplace. If they test positive, they should self-isolate and order a PCR test to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

Children aged 4 years and under do not need to take part in daily testing as contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate.

This advice is in addition to the changes introduced on 16 August 2021. You are not legally required to self-isolate if you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and any of the following apply:

- you are fully vaccinated*
- you are below the age of 18 years 6 months*
- you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial*
- you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons*

Fully vaccinated means that you have been vaccinated with an MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine in the UK, and at least 14 days have passed since you received the recommended doses of that vaccine.

NHS Test and Trace will contact you to let you know that you have been identified as a contact and check whether you are legally required to self-isolate. If you are not legally required to self-isolate, you will be provided with advice on testing and given guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Any member of the household who is aged 18 years and 6 months or over and has only received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine or has not received any dose of the COVID-19 vaccination will still be required to self-isolate as household contact of a someone with COVID-19 symptoms awaiting testing and someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Please read the [stay at home guidance](#) which provides information on this.

Household members who are not exempt from isolation as close contacts should not go to work, school/college/childcare/education setting or public areas, and exercise should be taken within the home. If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online. Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

You could be fined if you do not self-isolate following a notification by NHS Test and Trace. You may be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 through the [NHS Test and Trace Support Payment scheme](#) if you are required to stay at home and self-isolate or you are the parent or guardian of a child who has been told to self-isolate.

Those who are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) should be supported to minimise their contact with other people in the household during this period, regardless of whether others have symptoms or not.

Instructions for household contacts who are not required to self-isolate from 14 December

Even if you are vaccinated, you can still be infected with COVID-19 and pass it on to others. If you are identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 but you are not required to self-isolate, you can help protect others by following the [guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread](#). As well as taking daily LFD tests for 7 days, you may also consider:

- limiting close contact with other people outside your household, especially in enclosed spaces*
- wearing a face covering for those aged 11 and over in crowded places such as school/college/public transport*
- limiting contact with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable*

If you are a health or social care worker or a student undertaking a work placement who has been identified as a household contact and are exempt from self-isolation, there is [additional guidance available](#) that you should follow to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 in these settings.

If you develop [symptoms](#) at any time, even if these are mild, self-isolate immediately, [arrange to have a COVID-19 PCR test](#) and follow the [guidance for people with COVID-19 symptoms](#).

I realise that this is a lot of information so please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like individual advice for your family. The staff and I are extremely grateful that almost all our families have chosen to protect our school community by keeping children at home when there is Covid in the household and to those of you who are supporting us to stay safe by using lateral flow tests when appropriate.

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 11 th January	Gymnastics Club for Oak Class
Wednesday 12 th January	Sports Club
Thursday 13 th January	Doncaster Rovers
Thursday 10 th February	School Discos - letter to follow
Friday 11 th February	I Love You Day - letter to follow
Friday 11 th February	Last Day of Half Term
Monday 21 st February	First Day back at School
Monday 21 st February	First Swimming Session for Y2 (Rowan)
Friday 1 st April	Last Day of Spring Term
Tuesday 19 th April	First Day back at school

Whilst these are difficult times in school with staff absences and some children needing to stay at home I would just like to let you know that the children make it all worthwhile - they continue to smile and be enthusiastic and they certainly make it all worth it!

As always if you have any queries at all feel free to pop and see me.

Kind regards

Mrs J Cook
Head Teacher