



Sandhurst Primary School

Newsletter
Spring Term
17th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do understand that we have all been putting up with COVID for so long now and trying to keep track of an ever changing picture is just so hard. I want to try and explain the guidance around testing and isolation for everyone. I am going to break it into two sections. Section 1 will be around what the government guidance is and section 2 will be around what we are seeing and experiencing in school. So here goes...

Section 1

Lateral Flow Tests

- If your child tests **positive** on a lateral flow test and has **no symptoms** they do not need to do a PCR test but they must isolate for up to 10 days, as they have Covid
- If they remain symptomless they may test on an LFT on day 5 and 6. If both tests are negative on consecutive days, they may end their isolation on day 6.
- Report your LFT result to NHS Test and Trace

PCR tests

If your child has Covid symptoms, including;

- ○ a new continuous cough
- ○ a high temperature
- ○ a loss of smell or taste
- ○ or symptoms linked to the new Omicron variant such as a heavy cold or sore throat

You should arrange for them to take a PCR test.

If the result is positive you will be told to isolate your child and for how long. You will need to give the details of close contacts who may need to begin daily lateral flow testing.

Covid in your household

If somebody in your household has Covid you should undertake daily lateral flow testing. If your child's test is negative they do not need to isolate.

If your child's test is positive and they are symptomless they will need to isolate for 10 days as they have Covid. If they continue to have no symptoms they may be able to end their isolation on day 6 after two negative lateral flows on day 5 and 6. If their test remains positive you should continue to isolate until day 10.

If they develop symptoms they should take a PCR test. If the test is positive NHS Test and Trace will advise you about isolation and other members of your family who should take daily lateral flows.

Please note the day you test positive is day 0.

I have attached a flow chart to help you.

Section 2

If you are following all of the above guidance we are really happy and thank you very much for your support. We are working so hard to keep school open and try to hang on to staff so that we can keep face to face teaching going where ever possible. But I do want to share with you what we have seen recently.

- Symptoms are really varied and not necessarily fitting neatly into the three main symptoms, we have seen upset stomachs, stomach pains, headaches or just a general feeling of being unwell and achy.
- Some children who are unwell are not testing positive until 2 or three days later from symptoms starting.
- Siblings, in the majority of cases, are going on to test positive a few days later
- LFT tests seem to be more accurate if you have given your nose a good blow first

So the guidance does state we can still go about our daily business if someone in the household has tested positive providing remaining members of the household test negative on an LFT, however, if you as a family decide to isolate together we will support you in this decision.

Our Current Situation

The current situation in school is that the Reception classes, due to the number of Covid cases, are acting as a bubble and are separate to the rest of the school. In year 2, Venus Class is now learning at home on-line due to the high number of cases and their own teacher having to isolate due to Covid. At this current time, we have been unable to secure a supply teacher for Venus class, we are on a waiting list. As it stands Venus Class will continue to learn online until, either we can get a supply teacher, or Mrs Rifatoglu is well enough to return to class. Unfortunately, we cannot, as some parents have

requested, bring in children who have had Covid and put them in another class. Public Health has advised us that Venus class is a closed bubble, in the midst of an outbreak, and so cannot be mixed with other children. So fingers crossed we get a supply ASAP. As soon as I know, I will let you know.

I really hope this is all clear but please do contact me via the office if you do have any queries.

Yours truly

Mrs R A Dove