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Maths &
Computing

THE STONEHENGE SCHOOL

CAD/dah

4th January 2022

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Co-Headteachers

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Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the return to school after the Christmas period there are a number of changes that have been made to the guidance to schools from The Department for Education that we need to update you on (or simply remind you of):

Testing on return to school

- Students should test the night before they return or the morning of their return before coming to school. If they have a positive Lateral Flow they should not come to school and should get a PCR.
 - For Year 11 that means testing on evening of Tuesday 4th, or morning of Wednesday 5th January
 - For Years 7, 8, 9, and 10 that means testing on evening of Wednesday 5th, or morning of Thursday 6th January
- All pupils for whom we have parental/guardian consent will then be tested on their first day back. Year 11 return on Wednesday 5th January, and Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 return on Thursday 6th January
- All pupils should then continue to test twice weekly at home and report results via the link on this page <https://www.stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk/covid-home-testing/>
- **One significant change is the fact that guidance regarding the use of lateral flow devices within 90 days of having Covid has changed. The Government are now strongly advising that pupils are tested even if they have had Covid in the last 90 days. This is because the surge in Omicron cases (a different strain to previous). Therefore, your child will still be tested if you have previously provided us with consent.**

Updated guidance on the use of face coverings

Face coverings will be worn in classrooms from the start of term, as well as indoor communal areas within the school. The advice is currently short term and will be reviewed on 26th January. **Please ensure that your child has a face covering with them each day.** If they are using disposable ones they should have enough of a supply in case they become wet through the day/so that they can be regularly changed.



Changes to self-isolation

If pupils test positive and need to self-isolate they may end their self-isolation period before the 10 days period if they have two negative Lateral Flow tests. Please follow the Government guidance below regarding this:

- Individuals may now take LFD 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 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 and return to your education setting from day 7.**

Daily testing for close contacts

As was the case before the holiday, if we contact you to inform you that your child is a close contact of a positive case (or generally a number of positive cases so their class is a particular outbreak for Covid), they should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend. This also includes if there is a member of the household who is positive. LFD tests are regularly supplied to pupils, and additional stock is generally available in school should more be needed.

Workforce issues

As communicated before the holiday we may find ourselves in a position where we cannot fully staff the school in order to ensure face-to-face education for all. We will do all we can to avoid year group closures but it is important to remember that we may reach an emergency point where some sort of partial closure is unavoidable. We will work to inform you of this as soon as possible and will ensure that remote education is provided to any pupils at home, as well as providing support for EHCP and vulnerable pupils.

Yours faithfully

C A Dean
Co-Headteacher

