

Prior's Mill C.E. Primary School

Clifton Avenue, Billingham. Stockton-on-Tees, TS22 5BX

Tel: 01642 650 426

Email: office@priorsmill.org.uk



Return to School January 2022

4th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, can I wish you all a very Happy New Year and I hope you all enjoyed a lovely Christmas break. I know many families have been affected by COVID in the last few weeks and I'm sure, like me, you have been watching the news keenly to see whether there would be any further restrictions put in place and whether schools would be affected. You'll know by now that all schools are expected to open as normal following the Christmas holiday.

Whilst we are hopeful that the new and more transmissible variant is less severe, we are not complacent about this and will continue to follow our risk assessment and safety measures to try and help reduce infections. We will also do all we can to minimise disruption as a result of staff absence and will as always, endeavour to provide the best education and care possible for your children. We are fortunate to have a fantastic school team who are always willing to adapt and work flexibly.

The main information to share with you from updated guidance is concerning isolation periods. Please see below which is taken from the DfE information to schools updated this morning:

- **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 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 or childcare setting from day 7.**

The guidance on what to do as a close contact of a positive case have not changed. Please see below from the NHS website:

If you live with or have been in contact with someone with COVID-19, you will not need to self-isolate if any of the following apply:

- **you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine**
- **you're under 18 years and 6 months old**
- **you're taking part or have taken part in an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial**
- **you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons**

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Even if you do not have symptoms, you're strongly advised to:

- **do daily rapid lateral flow tests (1 a day for 7 days), if you're fully vaccinated, to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 - find out more about daily testing on GOV.UK**
- **follow advice on how to avoid catching and spreading COVID-19**
- **consider limiting contact with people who are at higher risk from COVID-19**

If your child tests positive for COVID, please ensure you contact the school office as soon as possible. We will need the following information:

- Name
- Class
- Date your child was last in school
- Date of the positive LFD and/or the PCR test
- Whether your child had any symptoms

If you contact us to inform of a positive LFD test and are booking a PCR test, you need to inform us of the PCR results. This information is used by the Health Protection Agency to monitor us for potential outbreaks.

To help keep us all safe, please can I ask that just one parent or carer comes with children to drop off and collect and where possible, email or ring the school with any queries or concerns. If you do have to attend the school site, please ensure you have a face covering.

Thank you all for your continued support and understanding and I look forward to seeing the children back in school tomorrow.

Kind regards,

Mrs H Malbon
Headteacher