

4th January 2022

Dear Parents,

I hope you have had a good Christmas break and would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year! On the 2nd January, I received an update from the DfE, with all the latest guidance for schools. A summary of the guidance is below:

Attendance

All pupils should continue to attend face-to-face education unless they are self-isolating in line with government guidance. Attendance continues to be mandatory for all pupils.

Entering school

Please continue to email admin@moorside-pri.n-yorks.sch.uk or telephone the school office to pass on any messages or if you'd like a call back from your child's class teacher. We are limiting the number of visitors into school at present to keep our staff and pupils as safe as possible and will only be allowing essential access (for example for Health and Safety reasons) during the school day for non-members of staff. If you do need to enter the main entrance for any reason, only as agreed with myself or a member of the admin team, please wear a face covering and sanitise your hands.

Self-isolation

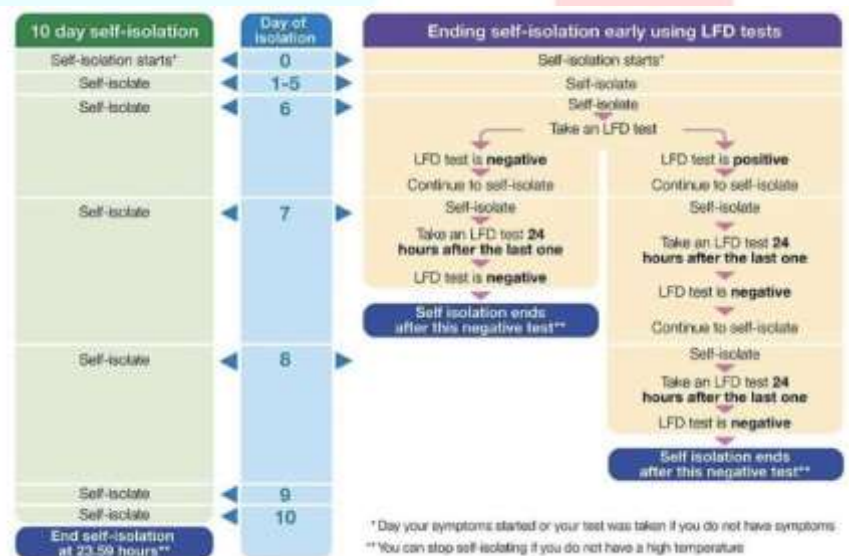
Individuals who have tested positive for Coronavirus are now able to end self-isolation after 7 days instead of 10 days if they have negative LFD test results on days 6 and 7. This applies to all people regardless of their age or vaccination status.

The two LFD tests need to be taken 24 hours apart and the first test should not be taken before the sixth day.

Pupils should only end their self-isolation period before 10 days if both LFD tests are negative and they do not have a high temperature. Pupils who end their self-isolation before 10 days are still advised to remain cautious, limiting contact with vulnerable people and not visiting crowded or poorly ventilated spaces. If the conditions for ending self-isolation early are met, pupils may return to school from day 8.

Anyone who is unable to take lateral flow tests will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation.

This diagram is quite useful:





Nurturing Children to Succeed and Achieve

Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time. If a pupil lives in a household where there is a positive case of COVID-19, parents should arrange for a PCR test as soon as possible. If the PCR test is negative and your child is well, they can return to school. As a close contact of someone with COVID-19, they should take an LFD test every day. If your child is unwell with symptoms of COVID-19, they must have a PCR test before returning to school, **NOT a LFD test.**

Remote Learning

I've already arranged cover for some areas of school over the weekend for the week ahead, due to staff testing positive over the Christmas break. My priority is to keep school open for all our pupils, so that face-to-face education can continue. There are likely to be staffing and/or timetable changes when teachers are unavoidably absent.

The availability of supply teachers is becoming more and more difficult but we are fortunate to have a team of staff who are very flexible and prepared to cover lessons as much as they can, to ensure that our children receive the lessons that their teachers have planned.

Our main aim is to keep our children safe and the government does recognise, that as a last resort, there may be a need for remote education if we do not have enough adults in school to ensure the safe education of our children.

Looking at the COVID data over the Christmas period, this term may be challenging at times if we do have confirmed cases, however, I will always keep you updated if I have any further information that may affect your child, and appreciate you contacting us at school, if you do have any concerns or questions. Our most up to date risk assessments are on the school website at:

<https://www.moorsideschools.org.uk/risk-assessment-for-the-wider-opening-of-school/>

I know you will continue to be vigilant and help us to keep our community safe. As always, thank you for your continued support and patience.

Best wishes,

Mrs Rowett
Headteacher