



Bapchild & Tonge CE (Aided) Primary School and Nursery

Headteacher: Mr C Kelly

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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope I find you all well.

We currently have 15 cases of COVID in the school and mainly in Key Stage 2. Fortunately, the children and staff who have tested positive have fairly mild symptoms however and we wish them a speedy recovery.

As you may be aware, the guidance has been updated for schools along with the length of the isolation period and the temporary suspension of PCR testing for some of those that test positive on a LFD.

The main COVID control measures for the school continue to be:

- Individuals will need to isolate if they have COVID symptoms or test positive. Time for this varies slightly with 5 days isolation from 17th January depending on a negative test on days 4 and 5.
- Ventilation of spaces e.g. classroom windows open etc.
- Enhanced cleaning and hygiene e.g. hand sanitising.
- Staff and visitors to wear face coverings unless medically exempt.

The Government have issued new rules regarding PCR testing. Confirmatory PCR testing following a positive result on a lateral flow device (LFD) has now been temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11th January.

This means that any child or adult who tests at home and gets a positive LFD result will no longer be advised to get a confirmatory PCR test.

Please note this is only for students who are **asymptomatic**. If your child has symptoms of COVID you should book a PCR test.

Please see information on the change from the DFE below:



This change is informed by public health advice. With high COVID-19 rates, the risk of a positive LFD result being false is very small. We therefore do not need to ask people to do a confirmatory PCR unless they:

- have symptoms (in which case they need to follow the stay at home guidance, self-isolate and order a PCR test)
- wish to claim the Test and Trace Support Payment
- have been advised to take a PCR test because they are in a clinically vulnerable group
- have been advised to do so as part of a research or surveillance programme

Education and childcare settings are not expected to trace contacts of a positive case as this will remain the responsibility of NHS Test and Trace. From Tuesday 11th January, contact tracing is triggered once a positive LFD test is reported.

The school also has written a COVID Outbreak Contingency Plan which details the school's approach to managing COVID and any outbreak. This can be found on our website and has been updated. We will inform you if your child or child's class is affected by any additional control measures and will continue to monitor these.

We will continue to implement additional measures for larger gatherings. For some of the gatherings involving parents we would ask:

- Face coverings to be worn unless there is a medical exemption.
- Negative LFD test to be carried out before the event.

I thank you for your support and wanted to ensure that we remain transparent and that you have the most accurate information. If further guidance comes out from the Department for Education I will update you of any changes.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

C Kelly

Mr C Kelly
Headteacher