



11<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

We have received an update from the Department for Education on the temporary suspension of confirmatory PCR tests in education and childcare settings. Please see the information below:

- Confirmatory PCR testing following a positive result on a lateral flow device (LFD) will be temporarily suspended from today, Tuesday 11 January.
- This means that for all education and childcare settings, staff and students who have tested and reported a positive LFD result will no longer be advised to get a confirmatory PCR test.

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 don't need to ask people to do a confirmatory PCR unless they:

A PCR is only required under the following circumstances:

- have a positive lateral flow device test and 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

Students are strongly encouraged to test twice weekly at home and to report all results to NHS Test and Trace. Anyone with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate and follow self-isolation guidance.

Information on the new arrangements can be found in the stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection.

Students and staff are reminded of the importance of reporting all tests results (positive, negative and void) to NHS Test and Trace. It is important to continue with twice weekly LFD testing and reporting.

Guidance for parents and carers

Yours faithfully

Mrs John  
Headteacher

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