

Monday 3rd January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very happy New Year to you and your family! I hope you had a restful and healthy Christmas break and were able to spend quality time with loved ones.

I write to remind you of the plans for return to school tomorrow and also to share updated Government guidance issued to schools on Sunday 2nd January. This latest Government guidance doesn't alter our plans for a normal return to school but I have outlined the points below for your information.

- **Staff are required to conduct an LFT before return even if they have tested positive for Covid in the last 90 days (so long as they have completed their isolation period).**
- **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.** Individuals may now take LFTs 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. 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 8.
- **Close contact of a positive test should take a LFT daily for 7 days.** 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 a LFT 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.

What does this mean for Buckfastleigh Primary School?

- All children should attend school as normal unless they have been advised otherwise by a medical professional.
- Entry to the school site will continue to be from the New Road entrance at the start and end of the day.
- Primary age children are not required to take a LFT before returning to school. However, you may wish to test your child before returning to school as an extra precaution.

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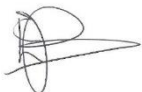
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- Face coverings will be worn by staff in communal areas and corridors and also on the playground at the start and end of the day.
- During pick up and drop off, we would advise that parents and carers wear a face mask on the playground.
- Identified close contacts of a positive case can continue to attend school as long as daily LFTs at home remain negative and the person has no symptoms.
- Staff and students who are positive for Covid may end their isolation earlier than the anticipated 10 days and return to school from day 8, but only if they receive two negative test results on day 6 and day 7
- As an extra precaution, only essential business visitors/contractors will be allowed on-site until January 26th. Any meetings with parents or carers will be on TEAMS unless there are exceptional circumstances where this is not possible. In these situations, parents, carers and other visitors are asked to take a LFT at home before entering school and only attend if it returns a negative result.
- Should you need to visit the school office, may I remind you to wear a face covering and sanitise upon entry to the building.
- Extra-curricular and enrichment/trips can continue as planned and information about these will go out in the first week of term.
- Staff will continue to test twice weekly.
- Children who are self-isolating following a positive test will be provided with remote learning once they are well enough to access it at home.

Thank you for your continued support, understanding and patience with all control measures put in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19 within our school community and keep everyone safe as we return for the start of the Spring term. We have supported each other through two very challenging years already so we are well-prepared and resilient to adapt to whatever lies ahead.

That said, let's hope that 2022 is an easier year for all! We are very much looking forward to welcoming our staff and students back to school this week.

Kindest regards,



Eddie Brown

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