



# Tudor Grange Primary Academy Perdiswell

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Principal: Mrs R Hughes

4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope that you have all been able to enjoy family time and some festive fun over the Christmas period. We are looking forward to the return to school and I am writing to update you on guidance sent to all schools on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

## **Changes to self-isolation period**

You may already be aware that 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. 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.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation. Further information is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

## **Daily testing for close contacts**

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 their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).



## **Contingency arrangements**

We recognise that the high rates of COVID-19 may cause difficulties with the availability of our staff and we have plans in place to address this. **Our priority will be to keep school open and to continue with face-to-face education.** If we face staff shortages, we will:

- Redeploy available staff within school to cover classes where the teacher is absent
- Combine classes (as consistent groupings or 'bubbles' is not part of the current guidance)
- Use available staffing from external agencies

We have no plans to move to remote education but it is important that we have plans in place should we need to do this at any point. Should there be a short term need for us to use remote education following advice from the DfE or Public Health officials then our arrangements will be as follows:

- Live sessions will be offered through Microsoft TEAMS
- Activities will be posted through our online learning platform, SEESAW

A separate letter will be sent to you with your child's log in details.

## **Updated guidance on the use of face coverings**

It is now recommended that **face coverings are worn in classrooms where pupils in year 7 and above are educated.** The advice is short term only and will be in place until Wednesday 26 January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed. All staff are wearing face coverings when moving through school and in communal areas.

Face masks and ventilation continue to be two of our strongest control measures. We have been using the CO2 monitors provided by the DfE to monitor ventilation in areas across the school. Staff will continue to ensure that they follow the guidance we have given to them to keep the spaces that they teach in well ventilated.

## **Supporting good attendance**

We have been delighted that so many of our students have sustained good attendance throughout this year so far and we need to continue to focus on enabling this. Please continue to follow our routine procedures for reporting absences (telephone 01905 453348 and leave a message on our answerphone) as quickly as you are able to so that we can focus our resources and available support.

The spring term is always one full of hope and optimism as the days eventually become longer and nature bursts into life again. We have been a very strong community throughout the trials of the pandemic and I feel confident that we can navigate this next phase together, using what we have learnt. Please do communicate with us when you need to and thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,  
Rachel Hughes