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## 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers

We have had a wonderfully white return to school last week but it hasn't put the children off their jobs! It has been great to hear how the children have spent Christmas and hear all about their holidays.

As I am sure that you will be aware, there are rising covid cases in our local area which would not be what we hoped for 2022. We will endeavour to keep classrooms open but in the event that there is an increase in cases- within school- we would follow our outbreak management plan (available on the school website) as well as liaise with Public Health for advice if necessary.

We have had some updates to guidance from the Local Authority which you can see below.

### **Self-isolation for COVID-19 cases - reduced from 10 to 7 days following two negative LFD tests**

From the 22nd December, the self-isolation advice for people with coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed. It is now possible to end self-isolation after 7 days, following 2 negative LFD tests taken 24 hours apart. The guidance also applies to children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

- 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. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion.
- 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 or childcare setting from day 7.
- You should not take any more LFD tests after the 10th day of your isolation period and you may stop self-isolating after this day.
- Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.
- Further information, including examples of when to end self-isolation if you have had COVID-19 symptoms, is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

### **Confirmatory PCR tests to be temporarily suspended for positive lateral flow test results**

- From 11th January in England, people who receive positive lateral flow results for COVID-19 will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK. Whilst levels of COVID-19 are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19. Further details will be shared when the national guidance is available.

We would ask that any positive results continue to be emailed to

[enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk)

## Is your child due to start Reception in September?

Please remember that if your child is due to start Reception, in September 2022, then you must apply for their school place (for whichever school you would like them to attend) by SATURDAY 15TH JANUARY 2022.

Your child is not automatically given a school place even if they are already attending a Nursery.

School has no involvement with this process and therefore you must apply for their place on the Durham County Council website <https://durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

## School Holidays 2021/22

Please make a note of the remainder of the school holidays for this academic year.

Term	Start	End
Spring 1 <sup>st</sup> half	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
Spring 2 <sup>nd</sup> half	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2022 (school closed Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2022)	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
Summer 1 <sup>st</sup> half	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 (school closed Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> April and Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2022)
Summer 2 <sup>nd</sup> half	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2022 (school closed Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022)	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2022

The same guidelines apply for parents requesting a holiday during term time and a Leave of Absence form would need to be completed and returned to the school office. We have families request a holiday due to covid but we would like to remind parents that a family holiday is not exceptional circumstances for a leave of absence to be granted.

The Local Authority have asked us to add an additional holiday where the school will be closed to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The day that we have added is Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022. This will mean that school closes for the summer holidays on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

## Swap Shop

Our Swap Shop has many nearly new items and we would hope as the year progresses that families would request nearly new items of uniform. We have many winter coats, hats and scarves should your children require new ones in the cold winter months. If you would like to make a request, please contact Rachel C.

## Phone Contacts

If parents/carers change their phone number or address, you must inform the school office as soon as possible. We must have contact details in the event of an accident or illness.

## Free School Meals

Have your circumstances changed? Do you think that your child/ren qualify for Free School Meals after checking <https://www.durham.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals> Please contact the school office and we can check for you.