



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Dipton

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Headteacher: Mrs J Burgess
We follow in Christ's footsteps

Wednesday 9th March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Covid-19 update - Changes to self-isolation and daily testing of close contacts

Recently, the government removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test.

Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.

In addition, the Government will: No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days, and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.

Staff, children and young people, who have been close contacts, should attend their education settings as usual. This includes staff who have been in close contact within their household, unless they are able to work from home.

You will see that the advice for people who have Covid is to remain at home for at least 5 full days and then follow the guidance until they have received two negative lateral flows.

Although these are now guidelines, rather than legal requirements, it is our expectation, and that of the local authority, that parents will fully adhere to these guidelines. This will help to ensure that our staff and children remain Covid-free and will allow us to continue to provide high quality education to your children. Your support will help us to avoid a situation last term, when we had a large number of staff and children absent from school with Covid.

We are all hoping for a full return to normality as soon as possible. This may still, however, take some time. Currently, we have a number of children self-isolating in Year 5.

In summary:

Please continue with regular lateral flow tests for the time being to highlight any asymptomatic cases. If you have a positive LFT, you do not need a further PCR. A positive LFT is sufficient.

Students with Covid symptoms should self-isolate and order a PCR test. Students should isolate while you wait for the result. If a positive result is returned, the pupil should self-isolate and not attend school for 10 days, but 5 days from the start of your symptoms (or test if no symptoms) you can take a lateral flow test, followed by another the next day. Once you have 2 consecutive negative tests on separate days and no high temperature, you can return to school before the 10 days.

Thank you, as always, for your on-going support.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Burgess

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