



Mapplewell Primary School

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COVID UPDATE

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a pleasure to welcome our children back into school following the Christmas break. Over the holiday period, there has been a local increase in the number of reported cases of the Omicron COVID variant, which has led to new rules regarding testing and isolation.

Information contained in this letter is intended to share the advice around the changes as well as give details of COVID measures in place in school.

Face Coverings:	Children in primary schools do not need to wear face coverings. Staff in primary schools do not need to wear face coverings in the classroom but will be required to wear masks in communal areas. Parents are encouraged to wear face coverings on school site, including on the playground and will be required to wear a mask in the main reception.
Hygiene:	The following measures are in place to ensure hygiene is promoted: Regular hand washing Use of hand sanitiser Enhanced cleaning including regular cleaning throughout the day of frequently touched surfaces
Ventilation:	Rooms will be well ventilated throughout the day- windows will remain open to allow air flow and air will be purged during break times when children are not in classrooms. Please ensure your child comes with a cardigan or jumper.
Visitors:	Any visitors to school will be required to wear a face mask and will be asked to complete a LFT.

Testing & Isolation:

The following information provides guidance in relation to testing and isolation periods.

It is still the case that children should not attend school if they have:

- a new, continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If you/your child tests positive, the day that you test positive or first have symptoms is classed as Day 0 (see chart below). Day 1 of isolation begins the following day. On Day 10, isolation finishes at 11.59pm, regardless of the time of day you tested positive.



However, it is now possible to end self-isolation **early**, after 7 days, **following 2 negative LFT taken 24 hours apart**. The first LFT should not be taken before the sixth day. This guidance applies to all who have tested positive, vaccinated and unvaccinated adults and children.

For example: If someone tests positive on a Saturday, they can take an LFT the following Friday (day 6). If they take this test at 8am, then they must leave 24 hours before taking a second test, so 8am on Saturday morning (day 7).

Day PCR test taken or symptoms began = Day 0	Day 6		Day 7
Saturday	Friday	You must leave 24 hours between each test	Saturday
Sunday	Saturday		Sunday
Monday	Sunday		Monday
Tuesday	Monday		Tuesday
Wednesday	Tuesday		Wednesday
Thursday	Wednesday		Thursday
Friday	Thursday		Friday

Therefore, if a child has 2 negative LFT, one on Day 6 and one on Day 7, **and no longer have a high temperature**, they can come out of isolation straight after receiving the negative result of the second test on Day 7. If not, then they must continue to isolate.

What has changed:

From 11th January the advice for people who have a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result has changed. They are no longer required to have a follow-up polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test, and they should stay at home and self-isolate immediately.

People who have a positive LFT test result should only have a follow-up PCR test if:

- they wish to claim the Test and Trace Support Payment
- they have a health condition that means they may be suitable for new coronavirus (COVID-19) treatments
- they are taking LFT tests as part of research or surveillance programmes, and the programme asks them to do so
- they have a positive day 2 LFT test after arriving in England

Please note due to recent Government guidance, Covid isolation period will be reduced to 5 days effective from Monday 17th January 2021.

Isolating as a Contact:

If you **are fully vaccinated*** or aged under 18 years and 6 months, and you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, you are not legally required to self-isolate. However, you are strongly advised to take an LFT every day for 7 days, and to self-isolate if any of these test results are positive

****You are fully vaccinated 14 days after having received 2 doses of an approved vaccine (such as Pfizer/BioNTech, AstraZeneca or Moderna/Spikevax) or one dose of the single-dose Janssen vaccine.***

Children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who have been identified as a close contact should continue to attend the setting as normal, but should take daily LFT at home.

Children under the age of 5:

Regular LFT are not recommended for children aged under 5. If they live with someone who has COVID-19 they are not legally required to self-isolate but you should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19. If they develop symptoms, parents/carers should arrange for them to take a PCR test as soon as possible.

Remote Learning:

If your child tests positive for COVID, they will be required to isolate. In this instance, school will provide home learning support as per our Remote Learning Policy (via Seesaw). We recognise that if your child has COVID, they may not feel well enough to do school work; therefore, we ask that you let us know if they are well enough to complete school work when you inform us of their absence.

Staff Absence:

As with all businesses and organisations, the absence of staff is a concern. If a teacher is absent with COVID we will:

- Use staff available in school to cover the absence wherever possible.
- Use supply agency staff to cover absence where needed and available.
- If supply agency staff/school staff are unavailable we will follow LA/Government guidance to address this which can include further measures as appropriate (these will be communicated as and when necessary).

As you can appreciate, this is an ever-evolving situation and we will endeavour to provide regular updates and communication as appropriate. Information regarding the COVID risk assessment can be located via the school website.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

G. Padfield

Mrs Padfield
Headteacher