



**Thornhill Primary School**  
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Dear Parent/carer,

Happy New Year and hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. We are very much looking forward to the children returning to school for another busy term.

### **COVID Updates**

We continue to be mindful of increasing COVID infections from the new variant Omicron and have a robust risk assessment in place to ensure pupils, staff and visitors are kept as safe as possible.

This is the most up to date guidance from the DFE that we are currently following:

- **Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for Covid-19 (reduced to 7 days provided there are two negative LFD tests on day 6 and day 7)**

The full self-isolation period is 10 days, however if an individual gets a negative LFD test result no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and a further negative test 24 hours later (day 7) then the individual no longer needs to complete the full 10 days and may end their self-isolation after the second negative test provided they do not have a high temperature. This also applies to children under 5, "*with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion*".

- **Daily testing for close contacts for Covid-19**

The public health advice also states that those close contacts who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months "*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*".

- **Face covering in schools**

The guidance remains that adults and visitors wear face masks in communal areas, but do not need to wear them in their classrooms or outside. Visitors onsite are advised to take a LFD before entering the premises.

- **Remote learning**

For children unable to come to school due to COVID, we continue to offer remote learning via Teams and Seesaw. The class teacher will be in touch on the first day of isolation to make arrangements.

- **Symptoms / PCR / LFD**

Pupils should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).

If anyone in school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home and a PCR test needs to be booked.

Whilst awaiting the PCR result, pupils should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19.

We will continue to work with parents/carers to ensure we follow the guidance and keep our children, families and staff as safe as possible. If you are unsure about what to do, please contact school and we are always happy to help.

Kind regards,

Miss S Overfield

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