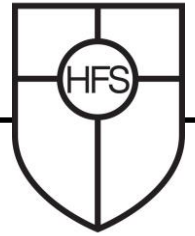


The Holy Family Catholic School



Our Ref: SMA/DK

4 January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Happy new year! I hope you and your family have had an enjoyable Christmas break.

We are really looking forward to welcoming all students back to school tomorrow. I thought it would be useful for me to contact you to update you on changes of arrangements that have been announced over the last couple of weeks and to outline our arrangements for reopening:

On site testing

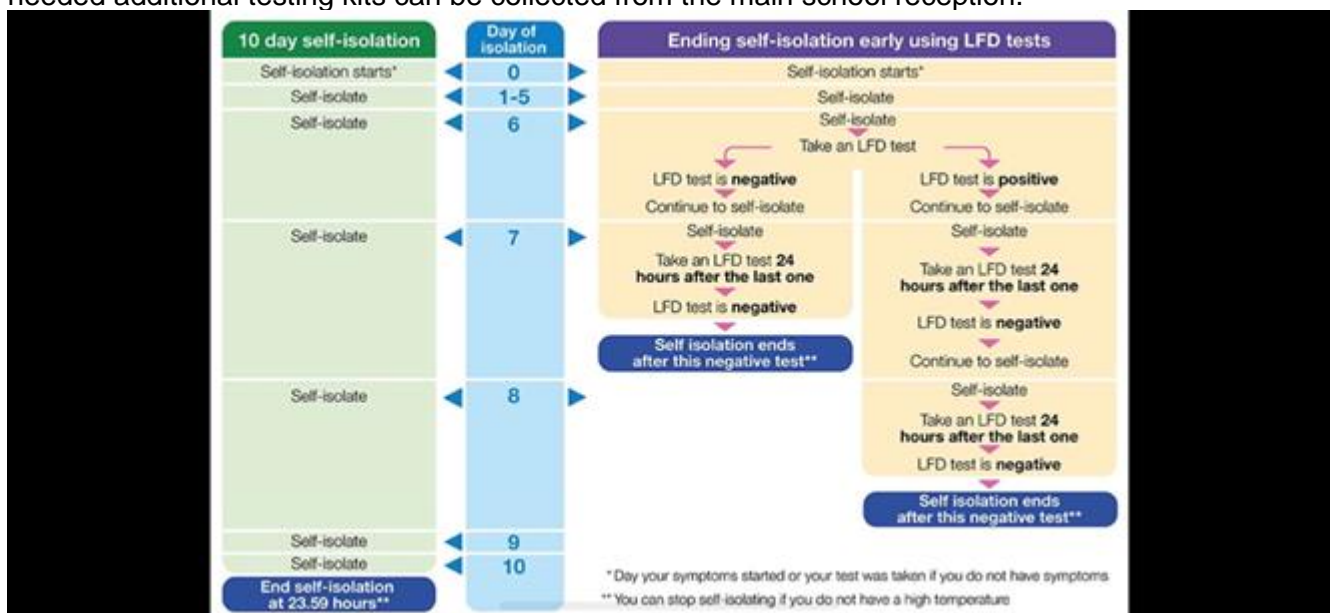
Before the holiday, you received information regarding on site Covid 19 testing for your child(ren) on their return from the Christmas break. As you know, we have been asked by the government to test all students for whom we have consent on their return to school. Testing will take place tomorrow morning for students in all year groups. If you have given your consent for your child to be tested, please ask them to go directly to the school hall when they arrive in the morning where testing will take place. Once your child(ren) has been tested, assuming a negative result, they will join their normal Wednesday morning lessons.

Twice weekly testing at hom

Thank you to those of you who are regularly home testing your child(ren) for Covid 19. This home testing regime has helped us to keep numbers of positive Covid cases in the school down and has meant that we have been able to avoid moving to remote education for large groups of students this term. Please can I ask that you continue testing your child(ren) twice weekly and deal with any positive test results as per the government guidelines. If needed additional testing kits can be collected from the main school reception.

Positive Cases

If your child(ren) return a positive LFD test result at any time, please arrange for them to take a PCR test as soon as possible and to isolate until the result has been received. On receipt of a positive PCR result they will be unable to return to school until they have completed adequate isolation as outlined in the flowchart below. In summary the isolation period has been cut from 10 days to 7 days. Anyone who has a positive case can return to school on the 8th day providing a negative LFT result has been returned on the 6th and 7th day from the date of the onset of symptoms or a positive test whichever is earlier. If this situation arises, please let us know about any student absence as soon as possible. If needed additional testing kits can be collected from the main school reception.



Close contacts

Close contacts of positive cases as identified by NHS track and trace are now requested to take daily LFT tests and subject to them having no symptoms and returning negative results they can continue to attend school as normal. Should anyone who is a close contact develop Covid symptoms or return a positive LFT, then they will need to follow the procedure outlined in the paragraph above. If needed additional testing kits can be collected from the main school reception.

Face Coverings

You will be aware that the government announced over the weekend that all school students in Year 7 and above will be expected to wear face coverings in classrooms as well as communal areas from tomorrow, unless exempt. This arrangement will be in place until the next government review on Wednesday 26 January. As such please can I ask you to inform your child(ren) that they will be expected to wear their face coverings during lessons as well as inside the school building at break, lunch and change of lesson times unless they are eating. If your child(ren) is exempt from wearing a face covering, they will have been given an exemption badge before Christmas. Please ask them to wear this visibly throughout the school day to avoid unnecessary confusion regarding face covering requirements.

Remote Learning

The latest government guidance quite rightly prioritises face to face teaching wherever possible. As always, we will endeavour to keep all year groups open and attending school full time. Should we find ourselves in a position where we need to consider introducing remote learning for any groups of students, we will only do so in full consultation with Public Health England and after taking all possible alternative measures first. In the unlikely event that remote learning has to be introduced to any groups of students, I will be in touch with you as soon as possible to give details of the arrangements.

Thank you for your ongoing support throughout the year. I will be in touch with any further updates as soon as I have them. If in the meantime you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely



S Mather
Headteacher