



4th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year and a warm welcome back to the whole school community. Although there are many challenges facing schools and society, we do look forward to what we hope will be a successful year for the young people of our school.

On Sunday 2nd January I received an update from the government regarding the beginning of term. The information I have received has four significant changes since the end of last term:

1. Even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly **encouraged to take part in LFD testing at school or at home** once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.
2. **Face covering should be worn in classrooms as well as communal areas.** The government say this is a short-term measure. Unless exempt students will be expected to wear face coverings. If you feel your child needs an exemption pass, please email Mr Bailey (Acting SENDco) bailey.a@thecoleshillschool.org
3. **The self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances.** 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. If both these test results are negative, and students do not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 8. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.
4. **Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19** - People who are fully vaccinated, or children under 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend school.

The Government update also emphasises:

- the need for children to have a LFD test on returning to school (times for each year group are on the letter linked below)
- all staff and students to LFD test twice a week (please be aware that LFD tests can be collected from Student Support by students)
- keep classrooms ventilated through having doors and window open (your child can wear a plain water proof coat, as per normal school uniform, not hoodies, zip up jumpers or gilets over their school blazer)

We look forward to the return of all students, as per the staggered return to school arrangements set out in our letter before the end of term which can be found here:-

[2021.12-Start-to-Term-and-Testing-.pdf](https://www.thecoleshillschool.org.uk/2021.12-Start-to-Term-and-Testing-.pdf) ([thecoleshillschool.org.uk](https://www.thecoleshillschool.org.uk))

Thank you for your support and for the central part you play in ensuring our school community remains a safe, happy and aspirational environment in which your young people can achieve their full potential.

Kind regards

I Smith-Childs

Ian Smith-Childs
Headteacher