

Covid update – January 20th January 2021

Today we received further guidance from the Secretary of State for Education – Gavin Williams outlining changes to the Lateral Flow testing in school. As from today we have informed to test staff and pupils twice weekly. We currently have been carrying out lateral flow tests weekly. We now intend to test our children and staff on Mondays and Thursdays.

We have also been advised to stop any daily testing in the event of close contacts. This has been suspended and from today any close contacts of positive tests will need to isolate for 10 days.

'Both NHS Test and Trace and PHE have now reviewed that advice, and concluded that, in light of the higher prevalence and rates of transmission of the new variant, further evaluation work is required to understand the impact of daily contact testing, instead of self-isolation for those who have been in contact with a case, to make sure it is achieving its aim of breaking chains of transmission and reducing cases of the virus in the community.'

In light of that assessment, we are pausing daily contact testing in all but a small number of secondary schools and colleges, where it will continue with detailed evaluation to inform any future resumption and to make sure nobody in the remaining settings is put at any risk. Regular testing of staff should continue and will increase to twice weekly as further reassurance and to break chains of transmission during this period.'

Source: the statement from the Secretary of State for Education

We will continue to keep you updated, if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Mrs C Smiles

Head Teacher