

Court Fields School

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Headteacher: Mrs P Matthews

Chief Executive Officer: Mrs S Watson

14 January 2022

Dear Parents & Carers

I wanted to update you on the current Covid situation both in school and in Somerset. Public Health England have advised us that, as Somerset is behind the peak of Covid cases in the southeast, we in the southwest are likely to see a peak about 3-4 weeks into January. We have already seen a number of cases in school and in line with Public Health's advice, we may see an increase in cases in the next two weeks. A considerable number of children are asymptomatic and are only discovering that they are positive via their LFT. Luckily our numbers of cases are still very low compared to other secondary schools, with 20 positive cases in the last 10 days.

I would like to ask your help in keeping those numbers low. We know that the Omicron variant is highly transmissible, and our best protection is undertaking Lateral Flow Tests. Staff are taking these daily in order to pick up any cases at the earliest opportunity, so that we can keep face to face learning in place if at all possible. Students should be testing twice weekly, and we would ask for your help in ensuring that this happens, and the results are reported to us on ClassCharts via the Covid+/- button, and to the NHS via their website. Please could students undertake the Lateral Flow Tests on a Sunday and a Wednesday. This allows as short a gap as possible between the 2 tests, and the best chance of picking up a positive result.

We will continue to notify parents of close contacts of children that have tested positive. Current guidance is that the only action required will be for your child to take daily LFD tests. Unless your child shows symptoms and needs a PCR test, or tests positive on an LFD test, they can continue to come to school. There may also be exceptional circumstances where we ask close contacts to undertake a PCR test (for example where there has been sustained very close contact and multiple positive cases).

Please also see the current Government and Public Health England advice regarding testing and changes to self-isolation:

- *If anyone has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, they are strongly advised to take a PCR test, not an LFD test. If someone with symptoms has already taken an LFD test for any reason and the result is positive, they do not need to take a follow-up PCR test.*
- *From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.*
- *The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).*
- *If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.*
- *Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.*



- *Current guidance is that children who have positive household contacts do not have to self-isolate unless they also show symptoms, but should LFD test every day for 7 days.*
- *Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test (the normally available test type) and this can be arranged via [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-a-free-pcr-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus-covid-19) or by calling 119.*
- *Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>*

We would also ask for your continued support in talking to your child about the importance of doing what we can to reduce the further spread of the virus. This includes:

- keeping an appropriate social distance
- washing/sanitising hands regularly
- following the one-way systems at all times
- wearing a mask as directed in corridors, communal areas and classrooms, unless exempt
- avoiding being in close contact with other students, both in and out of school.

Thank you as always for your support, which, alongside our Covid precautions in school has helped to keep cases much lower than in other schools.

With my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Polly Matthews', written in a cursive style.

MRS POLLY MATTHEWS
Headteacher