

Edward Peake C of E (VC) Middle School

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Dear Parents/Carers

This is a brief update regarding Covid-19.

Kitchen Staff Shortage

Today, due to an extreme shortage of staff in the kitchen, we had no option but to offer a reduced menu consisting of sandwiches, wraps and baguettes (if pre-ordered). We are sorry for any inconvenience caused. As I am sure you will appreciate, the situation on Monday is uncertain - we will be able to provide school meals but may have to offer a reduced menu again. Again, we can only apologise and assure you that we are doing our absolute best to provide the best service that we can in the most challenging of circumstances. Please bear with us as we wait for our staffing levels to increase.

Positive Covid 19 test results

From 11 January in England, people who receive positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results for coronavirus (COVID-19) will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK. Whilst levels of COVID-19 are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19.

Lateral flow tests are taken by people who do not have COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone who develops 1 of the 3 main COVID-19 symptoms (a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste) should stay at home and self-isolate and take a PCR test. They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test – these rules have not changed.

Self isolation periods

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 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative LFD 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 of these tests are negative and pupils 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.

Close contacts

People who are fully vaccinated, or pupils under 18 years and 6 months of age who are identified as a close contact of someone with Covid-19 should take an LFD test every day for seven days. They should continue to attend school as normal unless they have a positive test



result or develop symptoms at any time.

Lateral flow test packs

Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) for home testing are provided by school on a regular basis. It is recommended that students test twice weekly. The instructions for doing the test and registering the result are all provided in the kit. Please report any positive results to info@edwardpeake.beds.sch.uk. The track and trace email is only used during school holidays.

Useful websites

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/information-for-parents-and-carers-coronavirus-covid-19>

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/11/children_and_young_people/755/coronavirus_information_for_parents_and_carers

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Z J Linington', written in a cursive style.

Miss Z J Linington
Headteacher