



Chacewater School
Church Hill, Chacewater,
Truro TR4 8PZ
01872 560302

3rd January 2022

Update for parents/carers

Dear Parent/Carers,

Happy New Year to everyone in our school community. I hope that you all managed to have an enjoyable festive period in whatever way that looked like for you and your families.

Unfortunately, it looks like COVID is going to be with us and part of our lives for some time yet. However, it does appear that currently the virus, in most cases, is proving less severe and hopefully this will reduce the impact on us in school.

The DFE sent new guidance out to schools on Sunday (2nd January). The advice for primary schools remains very much the same as it was at the end of last term. They have released information for parents/carers which can be found [HERE](#). In both cases the message is clear that the continuation of face to face teaching is an absolute priority and attendance in school is mandatory.

For children and staff who have **tested positive with a PCR test**, there are changes in the isolation period for that person as outlined in the guidance below:

"Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

*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. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. **If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.***

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

***Children under 5** are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone*



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who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result."

So that we are taking all precautions to keep our children and staff safe we would appreciate it if you were able to share confirmation of the negative lateral flow tests on days 6 and 7, or consecutive days thereafter. To do this the tests will need to be registered on the gov.uk site - [CLICK HERE](#).

For children and staff who have been in **close contact** with someone who has tested positive with a PCR test, that person does not need to isolate, but test using a lateral flow for 7 days. This is only the case for children between the ages of 5-18 and also adults who have been fully vaccinated. If there is a positive result, then a PCR test will be needed. If a member of the household has tested positive, then it is expected that the child or member of staff will continue to come to school and maintain daily LFD testing.

Our updated risk assessment and outbreak management plan will be available on our website this week [HERE](#).

Remote Learning

If your child has tested positive and is poorly, then priority must be for the child to rest and get better. If your child has tested positive but is well enough to continue their learning, then we will work with you to ensure that your child has enough learning to access. Our policy with regard to this can be found [HERE](#). Remote learning will be available for when individual children are in isolation and when they are well enough to learn, this will be available through the child's class page (tapestry in Acorns). Level 1 provision is where there are individual children isolating and the rest of the school is operating as normal. Level 2 provision would be actioned in the event of a class closure or a whole school closure.

Attendance

Being in school is the best place for children to learn and that is why the government guidance does make clear that attendance in school is mandatory. Learning is sequential and therefore, missing even a day can impact on progress. Children should only be off school if they are too poorly to come in, showing symptoms of COVID or if they have had a positive lateral flow test.



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For children who have low attendance (under 90%), we will be working with our Education Welfare Officer, Mr Will De Labat, to support families in finding ways to improve attendance and address any causes for concern.

We recognise that starting another term under the cloud of COVID with the uncertainty and anxiety this brings with it is far from ideal. There will undoubtedly be some more challenges ahead but we will, as always, act in the best interests of our children and be as transparent as possible with all communication.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

Mr David Hick

Headteacher