17th December 2021

Dear parents / carers,

We find ourselves approaching the end of another year disrupted by COVID-19 and it still feels like we are not ‘out of the woods’ yet. Who knows what the new year will have in stall for us, but whatever it may be I believe we are strong enough to work through it together, for the sake of each other and especially for our children and young people.

You have continued to support the school and residence through the most challenging of times. You have been patient and understanding of decisions that we have had to make, even when we know they were difficult for you. Likewise, the staff have continued to come into work and do what they are really good at, which is teaching and supporting your children. We all agree that children need stability, routine and to be in school learning.

Finally…… Covid

I know you are all very familiar with expectations around testing and identification of Covid symptoms. We ask that for those children that will tolerate an LFD test please can you ensure that they take one prior to returning to school in January.

**Changes to self –isolation and LFD testing**

Please not that from Tuesday 14 December 2021, daily 7-day LFD testing applies to all contacts of a positive case (any variant and asymptomatic) who are:

* Fully vaccinated adults – 2 doses of vaccine plus 14 days since last dose
* All children aged 5 to 18 years and six months, regardless of their vaccination status
* People who can prove they are unable to get vaccinated for clinical reasons
* People taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for COVID-19 vaccine

Under 5s, are exempt from self- isolation as a contact and do not need to take part in daily LFD tests.

All other contacts who refuse to LFD test or cannot tolerate LFD tests, **MUST** self-isolate.

Self-isolation is still a period of 10 days from contact, positive test or symptoms.

Any close contact who becomes symptomatic whilst taking part in the 7-day LFD testing should stop LFD testing, immediately self-isolate and seek a PCR.

Please also remember:

* A positive result means an individual MUST self-isolate
* Unvaccinated individuals who are a contact of a positive individual MUST self-isolate (they are not eligible for the 7-day LFD testing) and seek a PCR test
* All symptomatic individuals MUST self-isolate and seek a PCR test

The link to the full announcement is below.

[Daily rapid testing for COVID-19 contacts launches this week - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fnews%2Fdaily-rapid-testing-for-covid-19-contacts-launches-this-week%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_campaign%3Dgovuk-notifications%26utm_source%3D4696fbf9-a24c-4cfe-93c7-5202f6faec7f%26utm_content%3Ddaily&data=04%7C01%7CKingsMill.Head.SpecialSchool%40eastriding.gov.uk%7Ca63e3fee810743bb538d08d9be450806%7C351368d19b5a4c8bac76f39b4c7dd76c%7C1%7C0%7C637750026127799232%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=nDuldfomSYjAzcWN5zrTBMx0bGmqmjXMpMFTye0Csnk%3D&reserved=0)

I do hope that the recent changes to travel arrangements haven’t impacted on your plans and that you are able to celebrate with family and friends. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone back on Tuesday 4th January.

Best wishes

