

WESTGARTH WEEKLY



Westgarth Primary School

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Friday 14th January 2022

Dear Families,

Re-revised National COVID-19 Guidance

You will be aware that, from Monday 17th January, national guidance is changing again for anyone asymptomatic who tests positive on a lateral flow test. A confirmatory PCR test is no longer required. Instead, children and double vaccinated adults begin their isolation period as day zero (when the positive LFD test was taken) and can then take LFD tests on days 5 and 6; 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 5 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both of these test results are negative, and there is no high temperature, self-isolation after the second negative test result can stop and children can return to school from day 6 (if the negative tests were taken early on the morning of day 5 and 6) or day 7 if taken later in the day.

If a child exhibits COVID symptoms, a PCR test should still be taken, rather than a lateral flow test.

If in doubt, do please ring the school office for clarification. We realise how tricky it can be to keep up with ever changing guidance.

Staffing Capacity

Like most schools and other front facing workplaces, we are continuing to do our very best with acute staffing shortages. Three of our staff have tested positive for COVID-19 since returning to school, and we have staff absent for other reasons. We ask for your continued patience and understanding, as we do our utmost to preserve safe staffing ratios and face to face learning for the children. Undertaking twice weekly lateral flow tests within your family can help us to help your children stay in school.



EMERGENCY LOCKDOWN ALARM

The other "Lockdown"

Your child may talk about a "lockdown drill" that we undertook today, testing out and practising the procedures we have in school in the event of us needing to lock the school down, which could happen for a variety of rare, but possible, reasons. A lockdown siren is used to alert all site users to get inside and stay inside, compared to a bell sound used to instruct site users to evacuate, such as for a fire.

The children were fantastic: so sensible, calm and responsive. Please tell them a big well done!

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Car Park Safety

A number of concerns have been raised about the danger to children's safety in and around the staff car parks at the EYFS/KS1 building. Parents and carers are responsible for supervising KS1 children and their siblings when waiting to enter school at the door to the back of the KS1 classrooms. Children should not be allowed where cars are parked at any time. Adults and children should not leave the school site by the vehicle access gate or road, or through parked cars, instead using the pedestrian routes. Barriers have been placed to demarcate these routes for the children's safety.

A reminder that parents and carers must not park in the staff park, including that of our neighbouring school, St Bede's, at very busy drop off and collection times. Thank you for your co-operation in keeping our site as safe as possible.

PD Day

A further reminder that school is closed to the children on **Monday 17th January** for a PD Day. If children are isolating, please be aware that home learning is not supplied for PD Days - please get them out in the garden for some fresh air instead!



Wishing you all a lovely extended weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Woodhead
Headteacher