



Enjoying our learning...
...aiming for excellence.

Bells Farm Primary School
Bells Farm Close, Druids Heath
Birmingham. B14 5YG
Tel: 0121 675 8666
Fax: 0121 675 4138
Headteacher: Mrs B Butterworth



We're now paperless!

Letters & newsletters will now be emailed to parents. Please ensure you have provided your correct email address to the office.

4th January, 2022.

Dear Parent / Carer,

Happy new year to you all! I hope it has started well for you and good things are ahead of us soon. We are all looking forward to welcoming the children back tomorrow and starting the spring term.

What we do know is that our old enemy COVID continues to be with us and I am sure you all know at least one or two people with it at the moment, if not your own families. It has been quite frustrating to have so little guidance out there specifically for primary schools, so I will just lay out what we will be doing to manage the risk of an outbreak.

1. Mask wearing: we are going to resume wearing masks in communal areas in school (staff not children) and will resume wearing them in the playground. I would recommend that you do the same and as before, please maintain a social distance when communicating with people outside of your family group.
2. Assemblies will continue to be limited to separate groups for the children or online.
3. Enhanced cleaning of surfaces will continue throughout the day.
4. Zoning of classes at playtime will continue.
5. Allocation of toilets will continue so that each block has a limited number of classes using it.
6. Staff will be taking lateral flow tests at least twice a week.
7. We are checking CO2 monitors daily to ensure we are monitoring ventilation and whether windows need to remain open. These will be opened at regular times throughout the day to ensure air circulation is maximised, so please ensure your children have extra layers – a sweatshirt/ cardigan/sweater over their uniform. Aside from the extra layers, please make sure that children attend in full uniform with black shoes/boots or black trainers.

The most important aspect of all of this is that we avoid bringing the virus into school as much as we possibly can. So please make sure that if your child



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has any symptoms that you keep them at home and seek a PCR test as soon as possible. I know there is an issue with lateral flow tests at the moment, and we are awaiting a consignment ourselves. Please let us know if you have any issues obtaining a test.

Positive cases of COVID

This is a very long piece of information but hopefully clarifies how we will meet our own risk assessment and comply with current government guidance.

NHS and government guidance is currently as follows:

This guidance applies to adults as well as children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting.

If you have COVID-19 symptoms or have received a positive COVID-19 test result - stay at home and self-isolate

If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, stay at home and self-isolate immediately. If you have a positive test result but do not have symptoms, stay at home and self-isolate as soon as you receive the results. You should do this even if you have received one or more doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

As children are exempt from isolation, a daily lateral flow test should be taken and if positive the children should self - isolate until they have had a PCR test which will confirm COVID either way. They should then follow the same rules as adults for self-isolation.

Arrange to have a PCR test by ordering it online or by calling 119 if you have not already had one. Stay at home while you are waiting for a home test kit, a test site appointment or a test result. You can leave your home in a few specific circumstances, but do not go to work, school, or public areas and do not use public transport or taxis. See circumstances in which you can leave home.

If you need to leave your home to get to a test site, wear a face covering, stay at least 2 metres apart from other people who you do not live with, and return home immediately afterwards.



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If you are notified by NHS Test and Trace of a positive test result you must complete a period of self-isolation. Your isolation period starts immediately from when your symptoms started, or, if you do not have any symptoms, from when your positive LFD or PCR test was taken, whichever test was taken first.

Your isolation period includes the day your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you do not have symptoms), and the next 10 full days.

This means that if, for example, your symptoms started at any time on the 15th of the month (or if you did not have symptoms but your first positive COVID-19 test was taken on the 15th), your isolation period ends at 23:59hrs on the 25th of the month.

You can return to your normal routine and stop self-isolating after 10 full days if your symptoms have gone, or if the only symptoms you have are a cough or anosmia (loss of taste), which can last for several weeks. If you still have a high temperature after 10 days or are otherwise unwell, stay at home and seek medical advice.

You may be able to end your self-isolation period before the end of the 10 full days. You can take an LFD test from 6 days after the day your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you did not have symptoms), and another LFD test on the following day. The second LFD test should be taken at least 24 hours later. 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.

Report your LFD test results after taking each test.

You should not take an LFD test before the sixth day of your isolation period, and you should only end your self-isolation after you have had 2 consecutive negative LFD tests which should be taken at least 24 hours apart. You should stop testing after you have had 2 consecutive negative test results.



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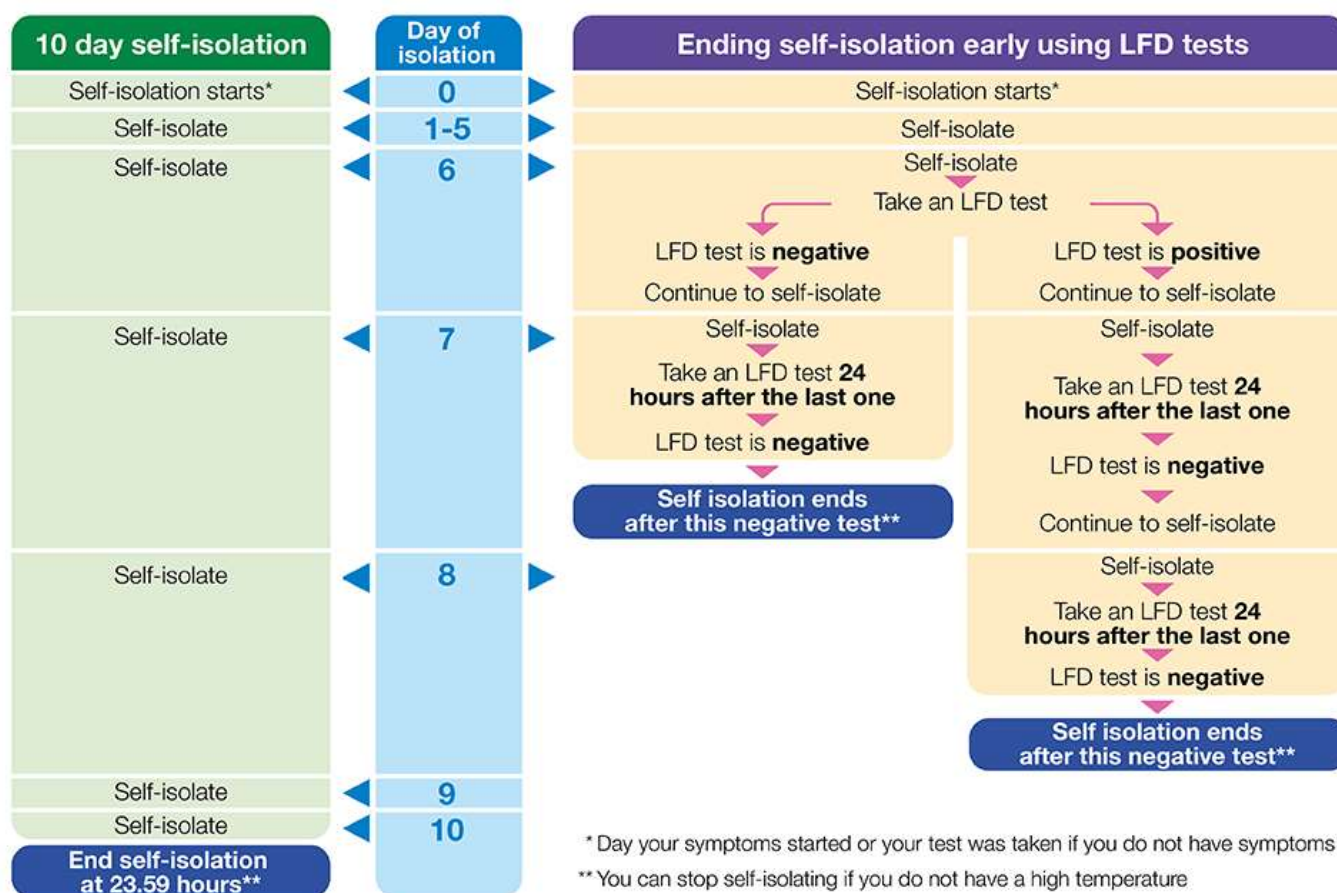
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Examples of when to end self-isolation if you have had COVID-19 symptoms or have received a positive COVID-19 test result:



It is essential that your child tests negative on day 6 and day 7 that you provide evidence of reporting this and that they only come out of isolation if their temperature is back to normal and they are well enough to attend school.



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We would prefer that the whole isolation period of 10 days is maintained and that your child only returns at the end of this period if they are well enough and have a normal temperature. We know that things have to get moving again, and are eager for them to do so, but this latest variant of the virus is so contagious that we do not want to take risks. If you have any doubts or questions, please contact us and ask to speak to myself or Miss Williams.

Absence notification

It is essential that you call, email or text us on the day of your child's absence so that we can authorise the absence and don't have to make a phone call ourselves or possibly call to your house. This also gives us a chance to call you back if needed to go through any symptoms and advise you further.

In other news!

One day hopefully COVID won't get a mention and we can just talk about normal school things!

Clubs

The activity after school clubs will resume week commencing 17th January. A letter will go out by the end of the week asking you to book your preferences for your children.

Staff

We are welcoming Mrs Lewis as our new Year 1 teacher this term. I know you will all make her feel welcome.

Y2 maths workshop

Miss Williams wrote to you the other day about this but just a reminder that we are postponing - originally scheduled for Friday - this until it is safe to have



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a group of parents in the building.

I will catch up with you again at the end of the week and look forward to seeing you all tomorrow.

Kind regards,

Barbara Butterworth