



04 January 2022

Dear Parents / Carers

Happy New Year to you all.

As I am sure you will be aware, the DfE has published new guidelines for all schools to adopt from the beginning of this term. The majority of these measures were already in place at Ashlyns or planned for the beginning of this term.

To ensure you are fully up to date with the new arrangements and expectations, please find below a series of updates and reminders regarding our return to school this week.

Return to school schedule including start times

Please find a link to the original letter outlining the details of the staggered start and on-site testing arrangements [here](#).

Please also remember that the time slots apply to all students, whether they are taking part in the testing or not.

Consent

Please make sure that you have made your child aware of your decision regarding consent for testing.

Testing within 90 days of a positive PCR

We have received updated guidance on this and even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are still encouraged to take part in LFD testing on-site.

Face coverings

Students should wear face coverings in communal areas and classroom settings unless they are exempt.

Changes to isolation period

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. 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 or childcare setting from day 7.

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

Close contacts of COVID-19

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Testing at home

Following the on-site testing at school, students should continue to test on a twice weekly basis at home. Students will be provided with a test kit on their return to facilitate this.

Attendance flow-chart

The updated flow-chart can be found [here](#).

Finally, please remember, do not send your child to school if they present any of the COVID symptoms i.e. a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, a loss or change to sense of smell or taste.

Yours sincerely

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

James Shapland
Headteacher