



3rd January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Return to School – January 2022

I hope that you had a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year, and were able to celebrate with friends and family. We are looking forward to sharing many wonderful experiences with you this year. Covid-19 case numbers in Somerset continue to increase and Public Health expect that Somerset cases will continue to rise as the Omicron variant is more transmissible.

PCR tests

With the current surge in demand, due to the increase in people with Covid-19 symptoms or testing positive on LFDs, some people have experienced delays when [booking an onsite PCR test](#). Availability is temporarily reduced in some areas to ensure labs can meet processing demand. Availability is refreshed very regularly, so check back every 30 minutes and you'll find a slot.

Access to LFD Test Kits

We strongly encourage household LFD testing for both symptomatic and asymptomatic testing. We are aware that many people have been recently unable to order LFDs online. More tests should become available for home delivery every few hours as availability is refreshed regularly. People are encouraged to [re-visit the site](#) every few hours. Please remember that LFDs can be collected at [local participating pharmacies](#), as well as via the [online ordering service](#).

Enhanced Measures

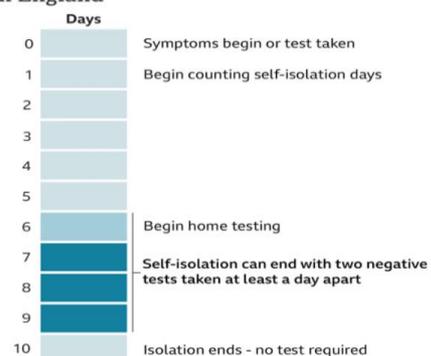
In line with the recent Government guidance we will return in January with continued enhanced measures. The Government has advised that it is unlikely that we will go back to a full school closure. Before this happens, a partial closure may be put in place, although again this is unlikely. Please see our management outbreak plan on our school website for further details. The enhanced measures are as follows:

- Staggered start and finish times with continue as below:

Year Group	Drop off time	Collection time
Pre-School	9:00am	3:00pm
Reception KS1 (Yr 1 & 2)	8:50am	3:00pm
KS2 (Yr 3, 4 5 and 6)	8:40am	3:10pm

- Face coverings will remain in place for all adults (unless exempt) in communal areas.
- Lateral flow testing will be undertaken twice a week by staff. We also encourage each household to undertake routine testing.
- 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, with negative LFT on day 6 and day 7 of isolation, unless you cannot test for any reason.

How the seven-day isolation rule works in England



- Enhanced cleaning routines will continue.
- Additional hand washing will continue.
- After school clubs are suspended until further notice to reduce mixing between year groups; however, 1:1 tutoring will continue in year 6. (Dukes wrap around care will continue as normal).
- We will continue to minimise the number of visitors onsite, so please continue to call or email the office or send a dojo message to your child's class teacher, if you have any queries. Appointments or meetings will continue to be undertaken, where possible, by phone or online via Microsoft Teams.
- Classrooms and office spaces will be well ventilated; however, a comfortable teaching environment will be maintained.
- Assemblies will continue to be held on-line.

Close Contacts

- 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.
- 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 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.

Illness in school

In line with the Government Covid guidance regarding attendance, pupils will be isolated awaiting collection, if they display one of the main COVID symptoms:

- a high temperature – this means the student feels hot to touch on their chest or back
- new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more extended coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If any child is displaying any of these symptoms' parents will be contacted and asked to immediately collect their child and organise a PCR test.

Advice for Parents Collecting Children

If a parent or guardian has received a positive PCR test, by law, they must self-isolate at home for the full 10-day period. A polite reminder that collecting children from school is not an exemption to self-isolation. Please have a plan in place, such as a friend or neighbour to do the school run 'just in case'. This will help you to avoid breaking self-isolation rules by leaving home. As always, thank you for your continued support.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Wilkins

Headteacher



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Wellesley Park is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children and expects all staff to share this commitment.