



28th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to write to you at the end of last term with some updates, but unfortunately the weather somewhat interfered with my plans for the final day of term. I intended to write and thank you all for your continued support and recognise formally the hard work of children and staff at St Laurence. As you will know, on the final day of last term, I took the decision to close our school. Whilst we avoided any significant damage, we did suffer some, to the guttering and a door, with debris falling to the ground. I know some were not sure that closure was the right decision, but it is clear now that it was absolutely unsafe for school to be open during storm Eunice. I have no doubt that some children or staff may have been injured if we had been in school that day. The site team have worked hard over half-term to repair and make safe the area affected for the start of term.

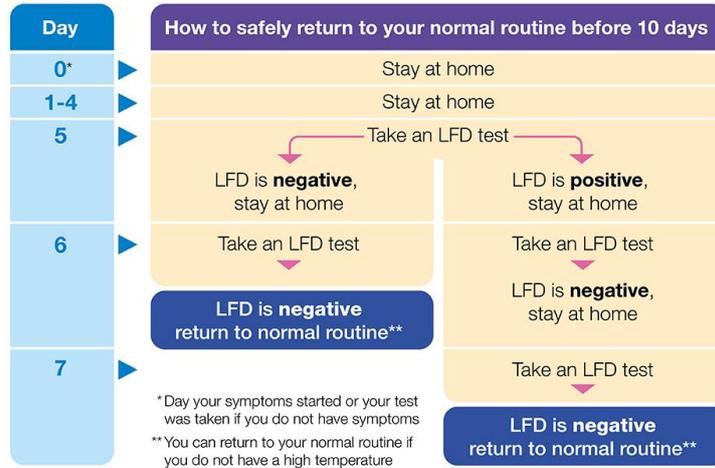
Covid restrictions

You will know I am sure, that the Government has relaxed most of the COVID-19 restrictions from 24th February. This means that face coverings are not generally required in schools and there is no requirement to test regularly, or isolate, except if you have a positive test result.

Good hand hygiene and ventilation remain important ways to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Therefore, please remind your children to continue using hand sanitiser, or wash their hands well with hot water and soap.

I have summed up the guidance for schools in the bullet points below:

- If your child has any of the main symptoms of Covid-19 (a recent onset of a new continuous cough; a high temperature; or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell) you should order a PCR test for them. Your child **should stay at home** and avoid contact with other people **while they wait** for the test result.
- If you can, you should let people who your child may have been in close contact with know about the positive test result.
- Children and young people **with Covid-19 should not attend school while they are infectious**. They should take an LFD test from five days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these test results are negative they should return to school, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature.



LFD Tests kits are no longer available through the school and will need to be ordered by parents.

If you or your child lives with, or have stayed overnight in the household of someone who has Covid-19, you or your child are advised for ten days to:

- minimise contact with the person who has Covid-19;
- avoid contact with anyone you or your child knows who is at higher risk of becoming severely unwell
- limit close contact with other people outside of your household, especially in crowded, enclosed or poorly-ventilated spaces;
- wear a well-fitting face covering made with multiple layers or a surgical face mask in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces and where you or your child are in close contact with other people.

However, children and young people who live with someone who has Covid-19 should still continue to attend school as normal and abide by the guidance above.

I am again hopeful that we will begin to move towards greater normality and thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes.

Kind regards

Tim Farrer
Headteacher