

# PORTISHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Learning and achieving together

4th January 2022

Happy New Year

Dear Parents and Carers,

We sincerely hope that every one of you enjoyed a fabulous break and wish you and your families a happy, healthy and harmonious 2022.

We look forward to welcoming you back to school on Wednesday as term 3 gets under way. We are very excited to see the children and get stuck in to this new year and new term with much planned between now and Easter. You can see some of those key events on the calendar on our website.

I am sure that many of you will have been keeping a close eye on the Coronavirus news and guidance over the break. Whilst there have been some changes in England, the changes that impact on our setting as of now are the updates to self-isolation outlined below.

## Covid Self-Isolation

You must self-isolate as soon as symptoms develop, or when you receive a positive test result if you do not have symptoms.

New guidance means you may now only be required to self-isolate for the following seven days, instead of 10 under the following conditions:

Two negative lateral flow tests (LFT) are required to end self-isolation: the first no earlier than day six, followed by a second test 24 hours later.

If both tests are negative - and you do not have a high temperature - you can stop self-isolating immediately (on day seven). If the day six test is positive, further tests can be taken on subsequent days, always adhering to the same criteria - that you must receive two negative tests, 24 hours apart, in order to end self-isolation.

The guidance applies whatever your vaccination status. It applies whether you have tested positive for Omicron or another variant.

## Contacts of Covid cases

If you are a fully-vaccinated (two doses) contact of someone who tested positive for Covid, you do not have to self-isolate, but should take daily lateral flow tests (LFTs) for seven days. **This also applies to people under the age of 18 years and six months.**

If one of the lateral flow tests is positive, you'll need to self-isolate and take a PCR test to verify the result.

Close contacts of a positive case who are not double-jabbed have to isolate for the full 10 days immediately.

## School Measures

Our current risk assessment measures will remain in place with some minor adjustments around and we will continue to work in close partnership with the LSP and NHSUK to minimise the risks to all of our stakeholders.

Our key control measures include:

- **Good ventilation in all rooms** – this will mean it will be colder when the temperature starts to drop and children and staff should layer up accordingly.
- **Good hand and respiratory hygiene** – each class will continue to have a **Sniffle Station**.
- **Continued additional enhanced cleaning.**
- **Staff and essential visitors wearing face coverings in communal areas.**
- **Staff continuing to engage in twice weekly lateral flow testing to reduce the risk of asymptomatic transmission and those working more widely across the school will take daily tests.**
- **Assemblies will remain via Teams.**
- **Staff meetings and training that can't be done socially distanced will be delivered remotely.**

An updated risk assessment will be added to our school website by tomorrow morning with further detail.

## What can you do to help?

- **Continue to follow government testing and self-isolation guidance and do not visit the site if you have symptoms or send children to school with symptoms.**
- Continue to wear face coverings on school premises unless exempt.
- **Report any absence and any Covid cases in a timely and clear way.**
- Arrive at school on time and with all your children need for the day, please be aware that our office staff are extremely busy first thing in the morning dealing with attendance and collation of COVID information for reporting purposes.

If the numbers of positive cases within the community continues to rise, we will all need to be prepared to face possible disruption to our school offer, and it is possible that staff illness could impact on our school provision and remote learning offer.

**We will be working hard in school to do all we can to reduce those risks and your diligence will also help with that.**

**In other news:**

- Our side gate now self-closes so do watch your little ones when entering or leaving during the school day. **You will still need to buzz the office for entry and exit through the gate.**
- We welcome Mrs S Bennett as the new teacher of Seahorse Class.
- We have also extended our support staff team to include Mrs K Bolt, Mrs A Lassak and Mrs T Townley.

The school, our community and most of all our children benefit the most when we work together in effective partnership. We value your continued support and it will remain a vital ingredient in the success of your children's education as we journey into 2022.

I am sure that we will all continue to rise any challenges the new year brings us and am excited to welcome everyone back to start the new term. Our value of term 3 is resilience and I am confident that our school community can remain positive and adapt if needed, to overcome any bumps in the road ahead.

Kind Regards

Richard Riordan  
Headteacher  
Portishead Primary School