

18<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January, the Health Secretary announced changes to the isolation rules for people who have tested positive for Covid-19. In order that people who have had and recovered from the virus can get back to their normal lives as soon as possible, isolation time has been cut to 5 full days (from the date of their first positive test), for anyone who has recorded two consecutive negative daily lateral flow tests. This will help to reduce the disruption the virus causes in schools for both pupils and staff. The school has spent time looking over the guidance and we thought it would be useful to send out some information to parents and carers. We know that the ever-changing information creates a lot of confusion, so the school response is important.

### **My child has tested positive on a LFT – how long are they off for?**

All people have to isolate for a minimum of 5 full days after the day of the positive test and can then return if they have tested twice. The **first full day** is considered the **day after the positive test**. Following the fifth day of isolation assuming two lateral flow tests, you can return on the sixth day. If you show a positive test, then you should continue to test daily until you record two consecutive negative results however if you have symptoms after day 5 you must isolate for the full 10 days.

In practice this means that if a child tests positive on Saturday this is considered day 0, Sunday is day 1. Thursday would be day 5 and a test can be taken (take it first thing in the morning) then take another test on Friday morning (Day 6) and if it is negative, they can return to school on Friday (that's the reason for the early morning test).

If any of the tests are positive, then continue to test until two negatives are received. Then your child can return to school.

### **What about if someone in the house is positive, but others aren't?**

Any child that has a negative LFT can come to school as normal unless they are showing symptoms.

The school is reviewing its COVID measures daily alongside its risk assessment and staffing levels. If a cluster outbreak takes place the school will move to a blended offer with parts of the school moving to remote learning. I hope that this helps with trying to work out what to do in the coming weeks should your child get a positive LFT or the school needs to make arrangements to keep everyone safe.

Take care and stay safe.



*Kind Regards*  
*Joanne Kiernan*  
*Interim Headteacher*

# Hope House School

Transforming the lives of children living on the Autistic Spectrum