

Mowbray Terrace
West Tanfield
Ripon
North Yorkshire
HG4 5JN
01677 470329



St Nicholas C of E
Primary School



Kirkby Malzeard C of E
Primary School

Church Street
Kirkby Malzeard
Ripon
North Yorkshire
HG4 3RT
01765 658329

admin@west-tanfield.n-yorks.sch.uk

admin@kirkbymalzeard.n-yorks.sch.uk

04/01/22

Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to begin by wishing all of our school community a very happy and healthy New Year.

2022 brings a series of changes to the beginning of the second term of this academic year. The government have recognised that the spring term will be extremely challenging for schools; a new set of guidelines were published during this Bank Holiday weekend - we have summarised the major points published this weekend, below:

Information on the changes to the self-isolation period for anyone who tests positive for COVID-19

Since Wednesday 22nd 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 in most circumstances.

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 the two tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and the individual does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 8, or when two negative test results, 24 hours apart have been obtained.

Should you not wish to test your child, they must continue to follow the 10 day isolation period guidance.

Testing for close contacts:

Should your child be a close contact of a confirmed case of someone with COVID-19, they should now follow the guidance below:

Children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, **must now 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 LFD 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 **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.

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LFD testing

School would be grateful if, where possible, you would LFD test your child before their return to school. **This is completely at parent's discretion** as we understand for some children this may be distressing or impractical, or you may not have access to tests. All staff will continue to test twice weekly.

The possibility of Remote Education or different class structures/staffing:

We will do our very best to minimise the impact of staff absence on our pupils this term as we did last year, but want to let all parents know that the likelihood of teaching and support staff absence caused by the prevalence of the Omicron variant is still a distinct possibility.

While our priority is to keep school open to our children, offering face-to-face education, there may be occasions where we need to review the staffing availability at short notice, and there is a possibility that this will mean that some classes and year groups may have to be merged, have different staffing or be sent home for short periods of time as per new government guidance released yesterday. With this in mind, please bear with us and help support out staff who are working incredibly hard in very challenging circumstances.

Should you have any feedback or questions regarding the above, I would be grateful if this is addressed to the senior leadership team and governors, via the admin email address.

Any further updates will be issued from the school this week, as appropriate.

Kind regards,
Sarah Taylor

Headteacher