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A Learning Ladder for Life

5th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID Measures - updated guidance January 2022

I hope that you and your families had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas break. We very much look forward to welcoming children back to school on **Thursday 6th January**, to embark on a new term.

I am writing to summarise some changes to the current Covid-19 measures that we have in place at South Borough, following advice issued to schools from the Government during the Christmas break.

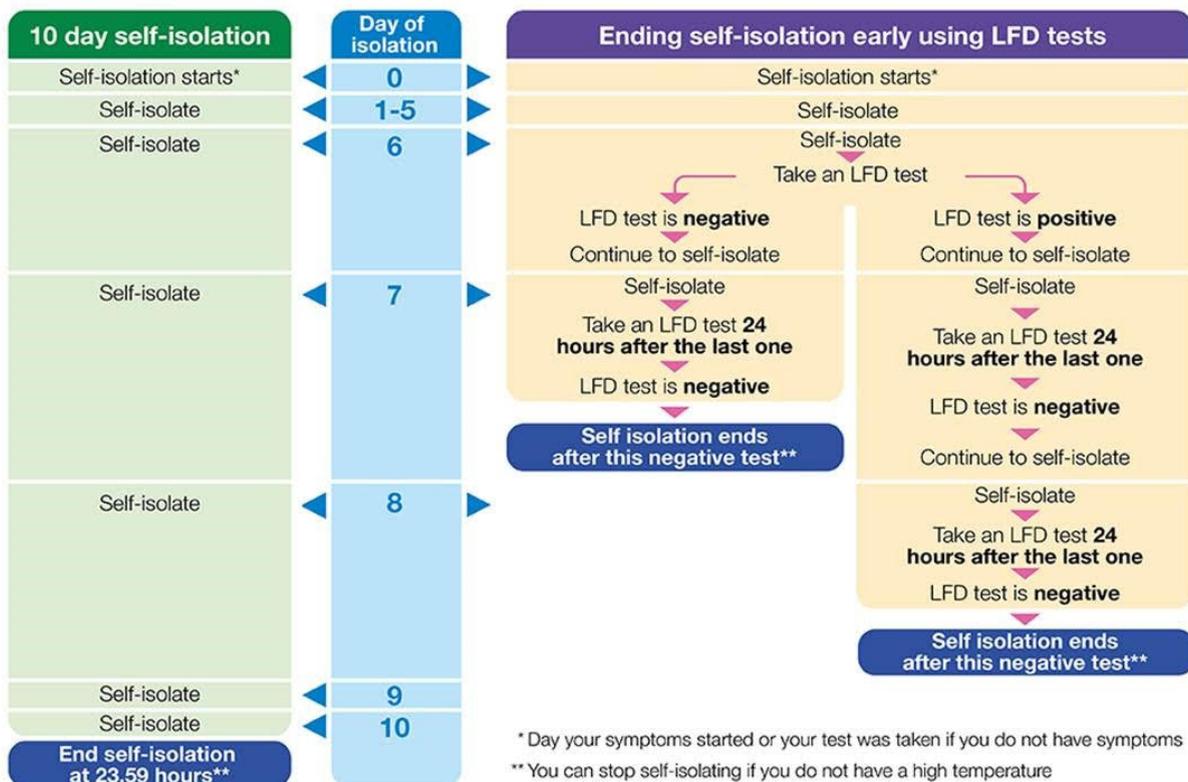


Face Coverings

All staff, visitors and parents must now wear face coverings when coming onto the school site. This includes on the playground, when picking up your child. Whilst this is not inside the building, it is a time when social distancing is more difficult. Please respect everyone in our community. Let's help one another keep our families safe.

Changes to self isolation period

Since Wednesday 22nd December, there have been changes to the self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19. Please see below a useful diagram, which outlines the new procedures.



Stagshaw Close, Postley Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6TL

Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Director of Primary : Mr M Wilson

Swale Academies Trust Registered Office: Ashdown House Johnson Road

Registered in England No: 07344732



Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. You should only end your self-isolation after you have had 2 consecutive negative LFD tests which should be taken at least 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 you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 7. This guidance also applies to children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting.

Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

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.

In school control measures

As a school, we will continue to implement the following control measures:

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to keep our community safe. We will keep you up to date with any further adaptations that may need to be made to covid restrictions.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Currie
Head of School