

Dunmow St Mary's Primary School

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Friday 7 January 2022

Dear Parents

I hope you had a good Christmas and New Year break. It was so lovely to be back in school this week and see the children engaging in their new topics.

Covid

We currently have positive cases in all year groups other than Y2, although most of these children tested positive over the holidays. From Tuesday (11 January) people who receive positive lateral flow results for Covid will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. This is a temporary measure while Covid rates remain high across the UK. The vast majority of people with positive lateral flow results can be confident that they have Covid.

Anyone who develops one of the three main Covid symptoms (high temperature, continuous cough or loss of taste/smell) should stay at home and self-isolate and take a PCR test. They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test - these rules have not changed.

Under this new approach, anyone who receives a positive lateral flow test result should report their result on [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) and must self-isolate immediately but will not need to take a follow-up PCR test. After reporting a positive lateral flow test result they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace so that their contacts can be traced and must continue to self-isolate.

In line with the reduced self-isolation approach announced on 22 December, anyone who tests positive will be able to leave self-isolation 7 days after the date of their initial positive test if they receive two negative lateral flow results, 24 hours apart, on days 6 and 7.

Birthday sweets and Natasha's Law

As we have outlined previously, we now need to comply with Natasha's Law when handing out any packaged food to children. This law says that all ingredients must be listed on the items. Therefore, if you are wanting to send sweets into school for birthdays to be handed out at the end of the day and taken home, we are only able to do this if each individual item has the ingredients listed on it. So for example, if a large bag of Haribos has the ingredients on but the individual bags inside do not then we would not be able to hand out the small bags.

Clubs

Clubs start next week. All club confirmations were sent out on Wednesday so if you believe you have booked your child into a school-led club and not received a confirmation email please contact the school office as soon as possible.

Sports Competitions

Due to the recent Covid situation the Yr4 Dodgeball competition and Swimming Gala have both been postponed. We are hoping for them to be rearranged to another date later in the year.

Events

Please find below the event calendar for next week:

Week commencing Monday 10th January	
MONDAY 3.30-5.30	Y6 Parent Consultations (Virtual) - link will be sent to parents during the course of the afternoon
THURSDAY 3.30-5.30	Y6 Parent Consultations (Virtual) - link will be sent to parents during the course of the afternoon

Yours sincerely
Clare Griffiths