

3 January 2022

**Head Teacher: Donna Walker**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy new year from us all at The Link School. I hope that you and your families are safe and well and that you've had a great Christmas break. Please see below for reminders and further details of our return to school this week.

### Onsite Testing

This will take place in School on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022** – individual appointments have been made for any child who is Secondary age (Y7 – Y11) to attend school for their assisted Lateral Flow Tests on this day. They will return home immediately after their LFD Test. Parents will be notified within 30mins of a positive result. We will continue to LFD pupils twice weekly for this remainder of this term, for those pupils whose parents/carers have given consent.

### Primary Learners

To support the onsite testing, primary learners will return to school on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022** – can we please ask our parents/carers to ensure that all children who have any symptoms should book a PCR test prior to them returning to school.

### Isolation

If your child will be absent at the start of term due to a positive result and self-isolation, please inform us as soon as possible so that remote learning can be organised for them. Self-isolation has reduced to 7 days provided that two negative LFTs can be produced on days 6 and 7 (24 hours apart) and your child doesn't have a temperature. In this case, pupils would return to school on day 8. If lateral flow tests still produce a positive result, pupils must continue to isolate.

### Daily testing for close contacts.

For those people identified as a close contact of Covid-19 (this includes living with someone currently positive), it is recommended that a LFT is completed every day for 7 days. During this time, assuming all tests are negative, pupils should attend school as normal.



Head Teacher: Mrs D. Walker BSc (Hons)

## Remote education

We have plans in place if this is needed. We do ask however that you check that you child can access their TEAMS account from home, we have laptops ready in school for those pupils who do not have available ones at home – these will be delivered to homes in the event of remote learning being initiated. If there are any issues, please contact school.

The list of critical workers and vulnerable criteria have now been updated and can be accessed via the following link [Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/critical-workers-and-vulnerable-children-who-can-access-schools-or-educational-settings)



[Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/critical-workers-and-vulnerable-children-who-can-access-schools-or-educational-settings)

List of critical workers (key workers) and vulnerable children and young people who can access full-time education provision in the case of future restrictions on education during the coronavirus ...

[www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

## Vaccinations

It is recommended that 12-16 year olds have their second dose 12 weeks after their first. We do not yet know whether vaccination teams will be coming back into schools or if the second dose needs to be booked via your GP/NHS online. Once we know more we will update you.

We are looking forward to welcoming our pupils back this week and we will of course continue to do everything we can to minimise the spread of infection – good ventilation, hand sanitising/washing, enhanced cleaning, limited visitors on the school and site Whilst it continues to be a difficult and uncertain time, we are certainly in a more positive position than this time last year. I would like to reassure you that we will be doing everything possible to maintain face-to-face education but do have strong remote learning plans in place should we need them.

Donna Walker

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D Walker".

Headteacher