



Date: Monday 3rd January 2022

Parent Update

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Firstly, can I wish all families a Happy New Year, hoping that you have been able to enjoy time with friends and family over the Holiday period. We are looking forward to welcoming all staff and students back into school this week and following the continuous updates through the media, thought it was timely to remind you of arrangements for the start of term.

- **Students Return.** All students should return to school at our normal start time (onsite by 8:40am) on Wednesday 5th January where they should make their way to their normal collection point on East or Westside playground.
- **Onsite Covid Testing.** Those students given consent to complete a Lateral Flow Test onsite should report immediately to the West Hall via main reception on arrival at school, they should not go to their meeting zones and will return to lessons once their testing has been completed.
- **Home Lateral Flow Testing (LFT).** All students have been provided with home testing kits prior to the Holiday period. All students not undertaking onsite testing are required to complete a LFT on Tuesday 4th January prior to their return to school on Wednesday. Should a positive result be returned then the student should isolate immediately and book a confirmatory PCR test. Please inform the school of a positive result by e-mailing covid.support@oldburywells.com

Regular testing is a key part of the government's strategy to reduce transmission and help keep schools open. Students should complete a further home test on the evening of Thursday 6th January and then every Sunday and Thursday evening thereafter; further testing kits will be provided at regular intervals.

- **Information on the changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19.** Arrangements for managing any Covid positive cases over the next few weeks have changed just slightly. The period of isolation for some positive cases may now be shorter. If a person has a negative Lateral Flow Test (LFT) result on day six AND day 7 (for two consecutive days) then they can end their period of isolation. They should not take an LFT before the sixth day of their isolation period and should only end their self-isolation after they have had 2 consecutive negative LFT's which should be taken at least 24 hours apart. We will initially record the 10 days isolation as before, and ask that you contact us to update if the requirements are met to end self-isolation early, please inform our Attendance Officer in these cases karen.sawyer@oldburywells.com

For full details follow the link : https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection?utm_source=2%20January%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

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- **Close Contacts.** You will be aware that the governments system for close contacts has changed slightly too. People who are fully vaccinated, OR children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, who have been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFT every day for seven days and continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.
- **Student Vaccinations.** All schools have been informed that there will soon be an update from the NHS about vaccinations for school aged pupils. We are aware that this is also a central and important component of the Government's strategy to manage Covid and to help keep schools open.
- **The use of face coverings (unless exempt).** As you will know from the press coverage, pupils in all secondary schools will now be wearing face coverings in the classroom. This means that all students should leave home with a face covering and ideally a spare covering if needed. Students will be required to wear a face covering at all times when in the school building (unless in the canteen eating or drinking) and while on school transport. *When students are moving outdoors between lessons and at break and lunch time, face coverings are recommended when in busy areas.*
- **Visitors into school.** All parents are asked only to attend school if an appointment has been made. On arrival visitors will be asked to wear a face covering throughout their visit.
- **Further Information.** Further information can be found on the schools website: <http://www.oldburywells.com/parent-information/covid-update>

Thank you as always for your support; we look forward to a positive start to the Spring Term and will ensure that you are kept updated with any local or national developments.

Yours sincerely

Lee Tristham
Headteacher