



13 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you of a change of local guidance that we are making, as a temporary measure to our COVID guidelines.

Over the last few weeks we have become aware of a number of students that have had positive lateral flow tests and then subsequently, a negative PCR. In some instances, we are aware of children having multiple positive lateral flow tests then only testing positive on their third or fourth PCR test. We also know that this pattern is particularly prevalent within the south west of England. This has recently been covered in an array of news articles. The link below is from BBC news. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-58841259>

With this in mind we have been in contact with Public Health England and they have issued the following statement.

“We are aware of a potential issue with positive lateral flow test results followed by negative PCR test results. This is being looked into nationally. Our advice is that if a pupil or staff member are displaying Covid symptoms and have tested positive on an LFD, but subsequently test negative on a PCR, they are treated as Covid positive and we recommend they isolate for 10 days.”

As a result, we are now asking that if your child has a positive lateral flow test, they do not attend school and isolate for 10 days.

Initially, we are asking that this guidance is adhered to until October half term, at which time I will seek further advice from Public Health England.

I understand that you may find this new local guidance frustrating, particularly if your child is asymptomatic, however please be assured that we are putting this in place to try to ensure we limit the spread of the disease and keep the children as safe as possible.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Paul Skipp
Headteacher