

11<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: changes to COVID isolation**

From 11<sup>th</sup> January in England, pupils who have positive lateral flow test (LFT) results for coronavirus (COVID-19) will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. However, if pupils have one of the three main COVID-19 symptoms, they should stay at home and self-isolate and take a PCR test. The symptoms are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- loss or change to your sense of taste or smell

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 LFT result must [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. In addition, they must report their result to school at [covid@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk](mailto:covid@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk).

After reporting a positive LFT result, you will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace so that your 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 return to school if they receive two negative LFT results, 24 hours apart, starting from day 6. For example, if they have two negative LFT results on day 6 and day 7, they can return to school on day 8 of the isolation period. In addition, the negative LFT results must be shared with the NHS and school as outlined above. Please note that, if pupils continue to have positive lateral flow tests, they should isolate for the full 10 days.

We ask that all pupils take LFT flow tests at least twice a week to protect themselves, their families and their peers from COVID.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



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**Acting Headteacher**

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