

# AYLESTONE SCHOOL

In federated partnership with Broadlands Primary  
School and Withington C.P. School

Broadlands House, Broadlands Lane, Hereford HR1 1HY

**Tel:** 01432 357371

**Fax:** 01432 263925

**Email:** [admin@aylestone.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:admin@aylestone.hereford.sch.uk)

**Web:** [www.aylestone.hereford.sch.uk](http://www.aylestone.hereford.sch.uk)

**Executive Headteacher:** Mr S Robertson

4<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school this week. As you know, we are staggering the children's return to allow us to test them for Covid-19. We also ask that your child takes a lateral flow test the night before their return.

On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January I received updated guidance from the Department for Education. You will be aware of the main headlines from the media, but I would like to outline them below:

### Information on the changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19

Since Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation. Further information is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

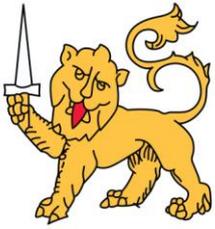
### Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

### Updated guidance on the use of face coverings in education settings

From Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January, it is recommended that face coverings are worn in classrooms where pupils in year 7 and above are educated. The advice is short term only, to support pupils and teachers as they return to school this term and builds on the existing proportionate guidance that recommends face coverings for all adults in communal areas of all settings. The advice on face coverings in classrooms will be in place until Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>



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January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed. Please ensure your child has enough face coverings to last them each day as we only have a limited number in school to supply children who have misplaced theirs. Please refer to my previous communications on the safe wearing of face coverings.

As a reminder I will also outline some of the parts of previous communications with regards to the children's safe return to school:

As we did last year, during the autumn term we have experienced some cold temperatures. One of the measures we have in place is to have as much ventilation in rooms by having windows and doors open where possible. We are advised that this needs to continue. We have already put the heating on and will provide additional heating in rooms where we can. Our children look extremely smart in their uniform and we would like this to continue as much as possible. With temperatures likely to remain cold in the spring term, can I ask that parents look to provide children with additional layers underneath their uniform that cannot be seen to best preserve the look of the uniform. Logoed jumpers and cardigans can be worn by the primary school children and Aylestone logoed jumpers (not hooded tops) can be worn under blazers for the secondary school children. All children should have a warm waterproof coat when they come to school and it will be at the teacher's discretion as to whether children need to wear these in the classroom.

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come back to school and you should arrange a test for them which can be arranged through <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119. Please follow our normal absence procedures and inform school once you have a test result.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

## **January – Start of Term**

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. That is why, whilst some measures are relaxed, others will remain, and if necessary, in response to the latest epidemiological data, we all need to be prepared to step measures up or down in future depending on local circumstances.

As pupils will have potentially mixed with lots of other people during the Christmas holidays, the Government are asking that all secondary school pupils should receive an on-site lateral flow device test on their return in the Spring Term. The Government has recognised that this is a huge logistical challenge and are therefore allowing schools to stagger the start of the Spring Term for children. As such, the arrangements for the return of students is as follows:

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January (8:45 am) – Year 7

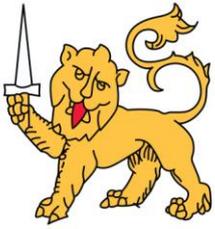
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January (1:15 pm) – Year 11

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January (8:45 am) – Year 10

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January (1:15 pm) – Year 8

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January (8:45 am) – Year 9

We ask that on the day your child returns they arrive as close to the arrival time listed above to enable us to



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maintain social distancing on site. If your child is travelling to school without an adult please remind them to maintain social distancing. On arrival they are to go straight to their allotted area where they will be sat socially distanced until we have completed the testing.

	Lower Gym	Upper Gym	Dining Hall
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January (8:45 am) – Year 7	7A	7Y	7L
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January (1:15 pm) – Year 11	11A	11Y	11L
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> January (8:45 am) – Year 10	10A	10Y	10L
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> January (1:15 pm) – Year 8	8A	8Y	8L
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> January (8:45 am) – Year 9	9A	9Y	9L

The school minibus will run before and after school. We ask that if your child is due to arrive at school for an afternoon session (1:15 pm) that you make your own arrangements to get your child to school. If this is a problem then please get in contact with Steve Cameron, Bursar, via the School Office. If your child travels to school using transport provided by the Local Authority then please contact them directly.

If your child is due to return to school at 1:15pm then please ensure they have had something to eat before they come to school.

For the start of the Autumn Term in September 2021 we had consent forms returned for new children to the school that replicated the consent forms sent in January 2021 to existing students and we will continue to follow those wishes. If you have changed your mind with regards to this then please contact Becky Kastania to inform her. **If you have not previously returned your child's consent form and you would like them tested then please do so as a matter of urgency.** If you have any questions then please contact Becky Kastania ([bkastania@aylestone.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:bkastania@aylestone.hereford.sch.uk)).

Children are to continue their twice-weekly testing over the Christmas holidays and when they return to school.

Best Wishes,

Simon Robertson,  
Executive Headteacher