



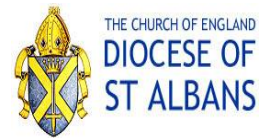
**Weston CofE (VC) Primary & Nursery
School**

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Wednesday 5th January

Dear Parent or Carer

Happy New Year!

I am writing to confirm that school will re-open as planned on Thursday 6th January.

The advice from The Department for Education and from Public Health Hertfordshire is that we do not need to keep children in the 'bubbles' that we had to reintroduce just before Christmas, and we do not need to continue with the other temporary measures which we introduced for the period of our school 'outbreak'. This means that we will no longer be asking parents to wear masks when dropping off and collecting their children, and siblings of positive cases will no longer have to self-isolate. It also means that we can return to the usual locations and arrangements for dropping your children off in the mornings.

Please remember that we do still need you to do the following (based on advice from the Government's Department for Education and Herts County Council);

- If your child is unwell in any way, please do not send them into school.
- If your child shows any possible symptoms of Covid-19 (a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss of, or change, in their normal sense of taste or smell) they must self-isolate and you must book them a PCR test immediately.
- Since primary-aged children seem to show a variety of other symptoms of Covid-19, consider booking your child a PCR test even if they are ill with other symptoms, such as a sore throat, headache, stomach ache or runny nose (and, of course, keep them off school until you have a negative result from the PCR test).

As you probably know, there have been changes to the government advice regarding self-isolation and actions to be taken by close contacts. This is summarised below in information from the DfE which I have copied into this letter;

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

Since Wednesday 22 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

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'Pupils behave very well.'



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.

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.

All staff are still being asked to undertake twice-weekly lateral flow tests and to wear face coverings in communal spaces outside of the classrooms, following the Government's current guidance.

As last term, we hope to be able to continue to open the school to all pupils so that they can have a face-to-face education and normal schooling as far as possible. Your cooperation with the measures described above will help us to achieve this.

Yours faithfully

Geoff Holmes
Head Teacher