



**PEMBROKE**  
A PRIORY ACADEMY

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

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope that you have had a lovely Christmas break and wish all our families a Happy New Year.

As we return to the new term, we are looking forward to all the learning and experiences we will share, however we continue to face challenges brought about by Covid19, this time in the form of the new variant.

Since the end of term and during the last few days the Government have updated both national and educational guidance regarding Covid19. Below we have highlighted some of the changes, as well as included reminders regarding previous communications.

**LFD Testing** – Arrangements for LFD testing remain as outlined in our communications from December, with onsite testing taking place on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. We also ask families to follow the national guidance regarding the use of LFD tests at home; taking regular tests twice weekly and reporting the results of these as advised. If your child does test positive please follow the guidance regarding isolation and confirmatory PCR testing. We also ask that you inform us of any positive result.

The current guidance also states: *Even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.*

**Isolation periods** - 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. LFD tests can now be taken on day 6 and day 7 of the self-isolation period. If you receive two negative test results you 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 school from day 8. If this is the case and your child is able to return to school please inform us before returning [pembroke@prioryacademies.co.uk](mailto:pembroke@prioryacademies.co.uk)

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](#)

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The Priory Pembroke Academy is part of The Priory Federation of Academies Trust. For further information please contact:

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**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](#)

**Vaccinations** - On Wednesday 22 December, the government accepted advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) that a primary course of vaccination should be offered to children aged 5 to 11 years old who are in a clinical risk group, or who are a household contact of someone (of any age) who is immunosuppressed. The NHS is working through updated guidance and will set out how this is going to be operationalised shortly.

The NHS will communicate how eligible children and young people can get their boosters shortly. As we receive any further information regarding on site vaccinations we will share this with you.

**Face coverings in education settings** – From the start of term 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. The advice on face coverings in classrooms will be in place until Wednesday 26 January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed.

We will share, with pupils, guidance on the use of face coverings on their return. We ask that pupils come to school with an appropriate face covering. They should also have a clean bag in which this can be kept when not in use i.e. in PE or outside.

**General precautions** – We will continue to promote good hand and respiratory hygiene as well as ensure appropriate levels of ventilation alongside all other guidance. If your child has any symptoms of Covid 19 they should follow national guidance regarding isolation and not attend school. If this is the case please inform us.

As always, we will be doing everything we can to ensure that we maintain consistency of teaching, however it is likely that there will be periods of staff absence that we will need to manage in the best way possible.

We thank you for your ongoing support in this and if you do have any concerns at all, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

**Mr S Evans**  
**Headteacher**