



St Antony's
Roman Catholic School

ASPIRE + BELIEVE + ACHIEVE

14th December 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well as we head towards the Christmas holidays. Sadly, the new variant remains a concern and is impacting now in many areas of the country, including ours. Testing, therefore, remains a priority for us all. From today, people who are fully vaccinated and identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take an NHS rapid lateral flow test every day for 7 days to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/daily-rapid-testing-for-covid-19-contacts-launches-this-week>

This guidance replaces the existing policy that close contacts of Omicron cases need to isolate. **Fully vaccinated adults and children currently in isolation as a contact of a positive case, can come out of isolation and continue to daily LFD test.** Adults who are not fully vaccinated, must still isolate as a close contact of a confirmed Covid case.

Anyone who has had a positive PCR result must continue to isolate until their isolation end date.

Daily rapid testing applies to all contacts who are:

- fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 jabs
- all children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status

As I'm sure you are aware, schools have been requested to carry out on site testing as the students return to school in January. The structure for this testing and their subsequent return to school for lessons is laid out below:

- Year 10 and 11 students will be tested on Tuesday 4th January and return to school for lessons the following day (unless showing a positive result)
- Year 7 students will be tested on Wednesday 5th January and return to school for lessons the following day
- Year 8 students will be tested on Thursday 6th January and return to school for lessons the following day
- Year 9 students will be tested on Friday 7th January and return to school for lessons on Monday 10th January

The specific timings for each form's testing will be shared towards the end of this week.

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It is essential that testing continues during the holiday period for the safety of all, especially before meeting with friends and family. Students will be provided with sufficient tests for this before they break up on Friday.

On other non-Covid matters, students are invited to wear non-uniform on Friday for a voluntary donation of £1 towards St Joseph's Penny. They will finish school at approximately 12:30pm. There will be no hot school dinners on that day but students (including those on free school meals) are able to preorder a packed lunch from Mrs Gorman.

Finally, I send you my very best wishes for a happy, Holy and safe time over the Christmas period.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mrs Wright'.

Mrs Wright - Headteacher