



**Headteacher:** Mr Stephen Snelson

**Deputy Headteacher:** Mrs Rachel Watts

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Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have had a relaxing Christmas break and that the new year has started well for you and your family.

It has been a delight to return to school this week and to see the children enjoying being back together and making great progress with their learning.

The number of cases of COVID-19 remains high in the community and we are continuing to do all that we can to limit the spread within school. This includes:

- Asking parents to only come onto the school site if strictly necessary
- Asking staff and visitors to wear masks in communal spaces
- Limiting the mixing of department groups by staggering breaktimes and lunchtimes and by moving assemblies 'online'
- Increased cleaning of high traffic areas
- Maintaining the need for good hygiene
- Regular lateral flow tests taken by staff

You are probably aware that the government has updated some of the guidance around testing and self-isolation, but for clarity:

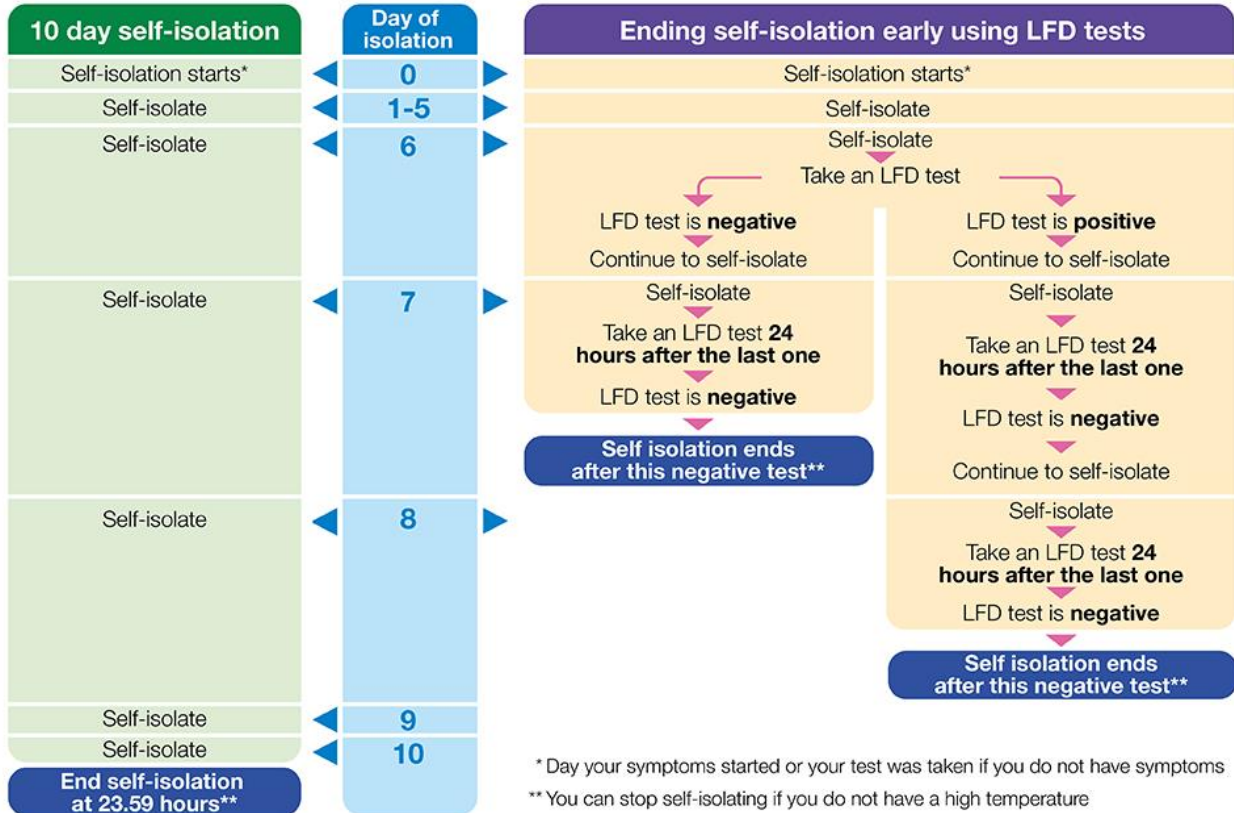
- From 11 January in England, people who receive positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results for coronavirus (COVID-19) will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.
- This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK. Whilst levels of COVID-19 are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19.
- Lateral flow tests are taken by people who do not have COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone who develops 1 of the 3 main COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home and self-isolate and take a PCR test. 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.



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- The length of the self-isolation period for those who have tested positive for COVID-19 has also changed. You may be able to end your self-isolation period before the end of the 10 full days. You can take an LFD test from 6 days after the day your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you did not have symptoms), and another LFD test on the following day. The second LFD test should be taken at least 24 hours later. 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.

The government have produced a graphic to explain this further.



Despite the challenges that we all continue to face, we are grateful for the support and resilience of the Red Hill Field community. It is likely that staff and pupil absence will cause disruption over the next few weeks, and we will do all that we can to minimise the impact of this.

Please be assured, that as we navigate through the current phase of the pandemic, we will continue to put our children, their education and their well-being at the heart of all that we do.

With very best wishes

Stephen Snelson  
Headteacher

Rachel Watts  
Deputy Headteacher

