



West Moors Middle School

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

I am writing to you to explain arrangements for the return to school in January 2022, in line Department for Education's requirements. As you will see, there are two versions. Plan A is what we assume will happen and if you hear nothing further, please follow the Plan A instructions. However, if there is a full or partial closure of the School after Christmas we will be following arrangements detailed under the Plan B instructions. I will be communicating with you again if we are moving to Plan B at any stage.

This letter gives advanced notice of our plans, however I am mindful that things can change quickly so I want to reassure you that if there is any further government advice or changes to guidance over the Christmas holiday period, I will send another communication to parents, carers and staff in our school community.

Please continue to LFD test over the holidays twice a week and please do continue to report these via our school's online form [LF test link for Students to school office](#). If you want to test daily because you wish to see relatives and friends that will be absolutely fine to help provide 'peace of mind'.

Arrangements for January 2022:

Plan A- what we expect to happen:

It is essential for children in year 7 and 8 to continue to test twice weekly over the Christmas as given the transmissibility of the new variant we will be monitoring numbers of positive cases over the break. All children in year 7 and 8 will be offered a box of 7 LFD tests on Friday morning to bring home. If you require additional supplies they are available in community test sites, local pharmacies or online (<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>).

For children in Year 5 and 6: LFD test kits are available through the usual routes (community test sites, local pharmacies or online- see, link above). Please can you support your child to carry out a Lateral Flow Test at home on Monday 3rd January 2022 before your child returns to school on Tuesday 4th January 2022, and report your child's result to: (1) [NHS Test and Trace](#) (2) The school by completing the online form [LF test link for students to school office](#). Children will follow their normal school timetable with Year 5s in school from 08.25 and Year 6s in school from 08.30 on 04.01.2022.

For children in Year 7 and 8: The Department for Education, has asked schools to carry out onsite testing of children in KS3 before they return. In order to do this, schools have been given permission to stagger the return of children in KS3 to school. Therefore, for all children in Year 7 and 8, **we will onsite tested on Tuesday 4th January 2021**, using allocated, staggered appointment slots. This will be similar to the test that children had after the October half term break.

Tests will be carried out in the Music room and children will then be supervised in an allocated outdoor space. If the test is negative, children will go to the Chip and Pin where they will be supervised, completing learning via the ITS Learning Platform. If the test is positive, we will contact you right away to collect your child and arrange for him/ her to have a PCR test. We are following this system as we do not want to gather students



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together in a holding place and then let them go to class, as due to the fast spreading nature of the new variant, we are trying to avoid all mixing.

A consent form and allocated time slot has been given to your child today for onsite LFD testing on

Tuesday 4th January 2022:

- **9am – 10.30am Year 7**
- **11.00am – 12.30pm Year 8**

Plan B (which we hope will not be required):

After the Prime Minister announced Plan B measures for England on 8th December 2021, Schools have been asked to put contingency plans together.

These plans would be put in place if:

- There was another national lockdown including school closure.
- OR if the number of staff absent with Covid (or having to isolate) after the Christmas break makes running the school impossible as there are not enough other staff to provide adequate supervision for students.
- OR if the numbers of Covid cases within a year group is significantly above 'breakout' thresholds. We will monitor case numbers over the break via our school's online form [LF test link for students to school office](#).

If the School needs to move to remote teaching, via the ITS Learning Platform, for one or all Year Groups:

- There will not need to be onsite testing for those children in KS3 not coming in. Please keep testing at home.
- Full remote teaching via the ITS Learning Platform will begin on Wednesday 5th January 2022.
- Onsite education provision for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings ([click here](#)), will be operational from Wednesday 5th January 2022. A booking form and eligibility for onsite education places will be sent out straight away upon notification of School Closure or Closure of a Year Group.

We have everything crossed that the return to School will follow the Plan A arrangements as laid out above.

Testing students at home

We would like them to take their tests either, before school on Monday and Thursday mornings or Sunday and Wednesday evenings.

You will need to report each test result to: (1) [NHS Test and Trace](#) (2) The school by completing the online form [LF test link for students to school office](#). Please note that the reporting of all Lateral Flow Test results takes only a few minutes and is really important to support our school community. Tests are free of charge.

Make sure you have enough time to do the test before going to school. Preferably this would be first thing in the morning as soon as your child gets out of bed. However, we understand that for some people this may be challenging, so we have also given the option of an evening test. You need to report all test results.

Taking the test

Students should take the test, before coming into school, twice a week. We will give students a leaflet with instructions on how to do the test with the kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](#). [Help and support is available](#), including instructions in different languages on how to test and report the results and a video showing you how to take the test.

Key Information on the Latest Guidance on Close Contacts

- The latest guidance states that fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating.
- Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep pupils in face-to-face education. A flow chart has been included in this letter to outline the new guidance. Close contacts will be expected to report the results online each day to: (1) [NHS Test and Trace](#) (2) The school by completing the online form [LF test link for students to school office](#), and can attend school following a negative result.
- Those that test positive should self-isolate and order a confirmatory PCR test. A negative PCR result would override the initial lateral flow test. Anyone testing positive, should self-isolate and order a PCR test to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.
- Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.

For students with SEND who struggle to or are unable to self-swab daily for 7 days, we will work with children and their families to agree an appropriate testing route, such as assisted swabbing.

Thank you for your help and continued support to help keep our school community as safe as we can.

I wish you all a safe, peaceful and Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing our children back in the New Year on Tuesday 4th January 2022.

Warmest Wishes,



Dr Deborah Craddock

Headteacher

Flow Chart of Self-isolation and Testing Requirements

