
NORTHUMBERLAND County Council

The Federation of Longhorsley and Whalton Church of England Aided Schools

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Friday 7th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very "Happy New Year" to you all! I hope that you have had a wonderful Christmas break with your families and that you hopefully remained Covid free. For those of you who have tested positive recently, we really hope that you are not too poorly with it. From the Northumberland County Council Director's briefing yesterday, we were told that 1 in 15 people have the new variant in England with 1 in 10 in London. Definitely unprecedented times. I have included the updated guidance below, with regard to schools and keeping the children and staff as safe as possible.

Updated Covid Guidance:

Up until 11th January - If you have COVID-19 [symptoms](#) you should stay at home and self-isolate immediately. You should [arrange to have a PCR test](#) as soon as possible. If this PCR test result is positive, you must continue to self-isolate.

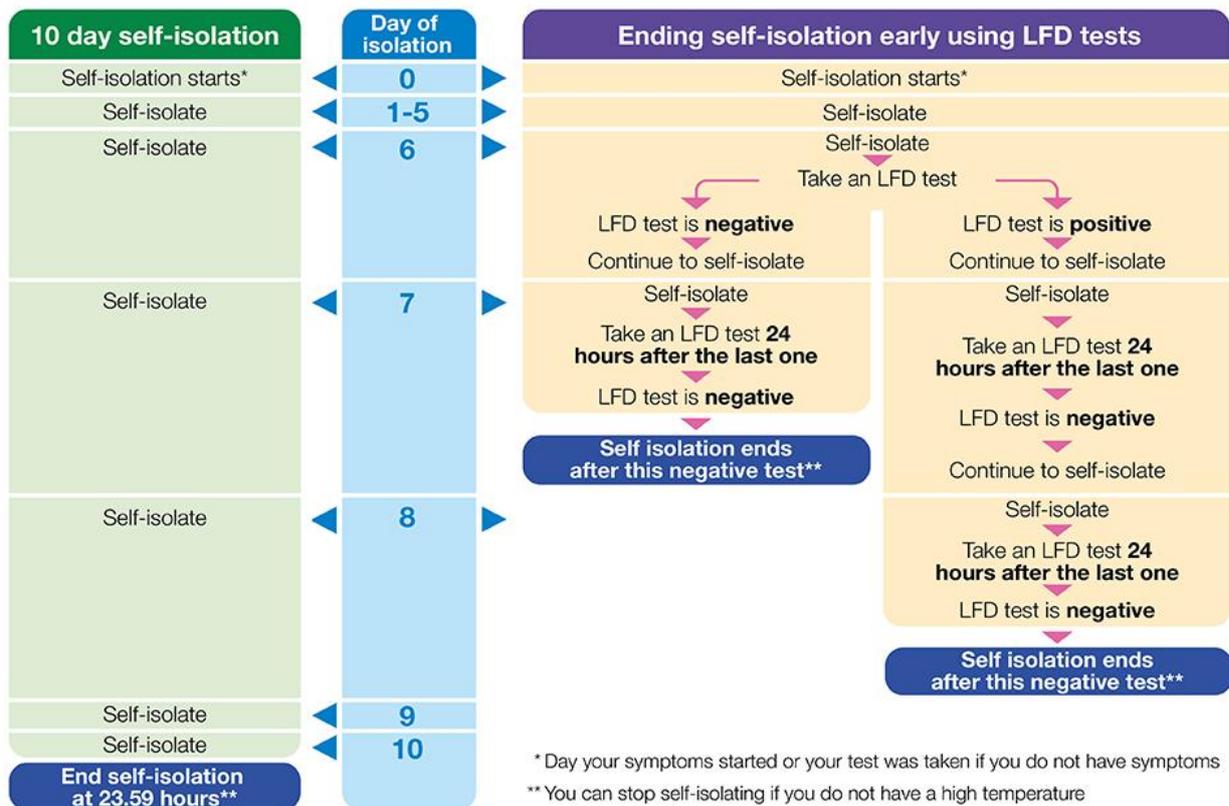
If you do not have COVID-19 symptoms, but you have a positive PCR test result, you must stay at home and self-isolate.

The 'stay at home guidance' is due to change so that from 11th January those who have a positive LFD test but no symptoms should self-isolate immediately but should not get a confirmatory PCR test. This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high. Whilst levels are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFD results can be confident they have COVID-19.

The guidance states that children can return to school as soon as isolation rules allow, so this will be after a second negative test on day 7 (from the day **after** symptoms started or the day **after** a test was taken if no symptoms). See chart below:

Aspire ~ Believe ~ Achieve ... to be the very best that we can be





Daily testing for close contacts for Covid-19

The public health advice also states that those close contacts who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months “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”.

Thank you so much for keeping us informed when any circumstances change.

Teaching and Learning

Newsletters outlining the term’s topic and curriculum for each class will be sent home early next week. Class Learning Journeys will also be available on our school website under Curriculum.

Although our next formal Pupil Progress Update Meetings for parents will be held next half term (format still to be decided), please remember that you can make appointments to see your child’s teacher at any point in the year to discuss your child’s progress or if you have any questions. In line with current risk assessments, these will be telephone calls (or a chat in the playground if that would help).

School led Tutoring - Government Funding

Following the end of term assessments, and with a very small amount of additional funding, we have identified a small number of children who we would like to offer additional support to help them catch up with their learning due to the impact of Covid. These parents will be contacted separately and asked whether they would like their child to receive additional tutoring. This would be once a week for 15 weeks, an hour after school (or half an hour depending on their age).

Christmas Performances

A lot of hard work (and technical know-how!) went into producing the Christmas performances at both schools and we would love your feedback (thank you to those of you who already have left comments on the Google classrooms). If anyone did not log on to their child's school 360 account to view the performances, the links will be live until next Friday. At Whalton, the eagerly awaited performance of Peace Child will be available very soon - final editing taking place today so we will let you know as soon as it is ready to view - definitely popcorn at the ready!

Your Views

As part of our school self-evaluation and as our annual monitoring, we are sending out the Ofsted parent questionnaire as a google form to gather your views. We are due Ofsted inspections at both schools and even though the last couple of years have not been a true reflection of all that we have been able to previously achieve as a Federation, we would really appreciate it if you could spend a bit of time responding to the questions and of course adding any suggestions on how we can keep improving; your feedback is very much appreciated and is used to feed into our Federation improvement plan so we can action it.

All parental feedback is shared with the full Governing Body who you may or may not be familiar with. Our Governing Body is a Federation Governing Body which works across both schools to:

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Hold executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff
- Oversee financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent

At Longhorsley, we welcome our new Parent Governor, Louise Storey who currently has two children at the school and we look forward to working with Louise. Further information about our other governors are on our school websites. Our Chair of Governors is Mr Paul Truscott.

School Websites

Over the next term we will be moving our websites to a new provider and providing a new refreshed Federation website with easier access to information for both schools which is hopefully easier to keep updated as two small schools too. This may mean that we have to close the websites temporarily but we will give you plenty of notice.

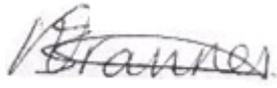
Reception Places

Please remember to apply for your child's Reception place for this September by the deadline of 15th January. Even if you are currently attending PAWS or our Nursery at Longhorsley, you still need to apply formally. Further details are on our websites under admissions.

Finally, just a huge thank you to you all for your continued support as we enter 2022; the children have arrived back into school refreshed and full of the joys of the time spent with their loved ones - just wonderful. A very warm welcome to our new Nursery children and parents at Longhorsley; it is through our successful partnership with yourselves that we can make our children the 'very best that they can be'.

Please remember that you can contact me at any time.

Kindest Wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mrs Brannen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Mrs Brannen
Executive Headteacher

