

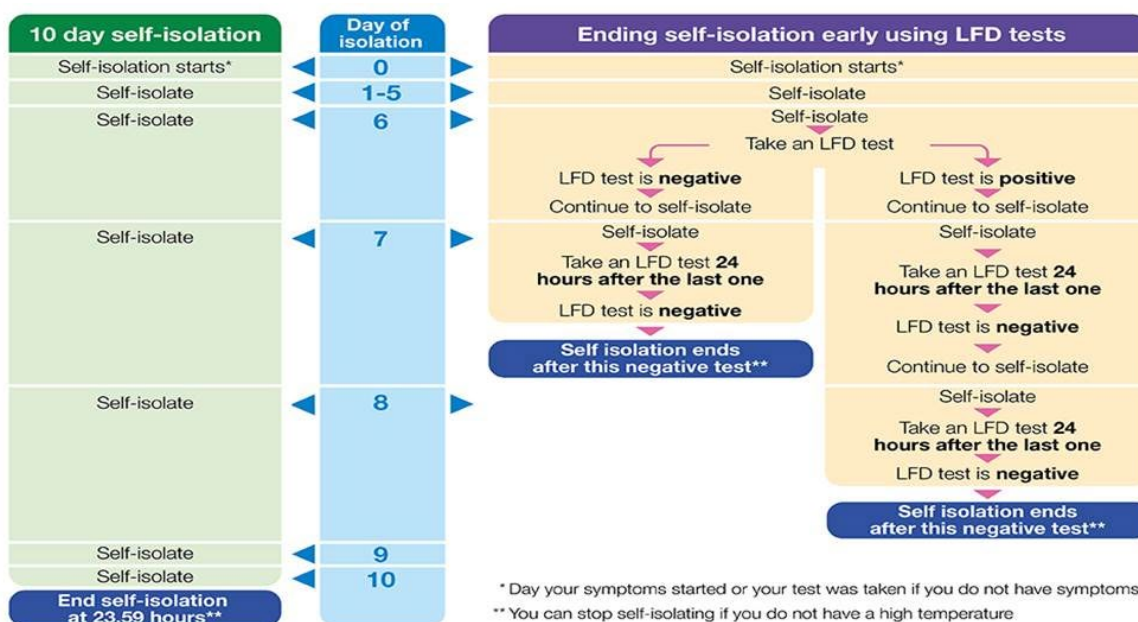
Friday 7th January 2022

Happy New Year!

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a wonderful time with friends and family over the Christmas holidays and happy new year to you all! I also hope you managed to stay well: it has been quite an extraordinary time from a Covid perspective and I am sure we have all been following developments closely to see whether any new restrictions would be introduced at the start of the new term. Fortunately, no significant operational changes have materialised amongst the raft of documentation that school leaders have received over the last 7 days. At Woodloes we introduced additional measures in November to reduce the risk of transmission and this plan will take us through to the 26th January when the government undertake their next review, unless our situation changes and we need to take further action sooner. Further details of our current operational plans, developed with Public Health, can be found on our website following the link: https://www.woodloes.com/web/covid_19_/506324

We currently receive updated guidance and further clarifications on a daily basis, so I am cautious about offering you a definitive set of new guidelines. However, one of the main headlines relates to new expectations around the duration of self-isolation, confirmatory PCR testing and the use of LFTs. From 11th January, new 'temporary measures' are being introduced which see the 10-day self-isolation period potentially being reduced to 7 days, if individuals have a negative LFT on day 6 and then again 24 hours later on day 7. The self-isolation period can also start (day 0) when the individual has a positive LFT without needing to have a confirmatory PCR. I have included a useful graphic below:



Admin5207@welearn365.com
www.woodloes.com

The government are keen to reduce the pressure on the PCR testing facilities, wish to speed up the overall duration of the self-isolation period and shift the testing strategy more towards the use of LFTs which can be done more conveniently at home. This has created greater demand for LFTs and I have been informed by Public Health this week that parents should source these online, from local pharmacies or local supermarkets.

Finally, from a Covid perspective, we have had no new positive cases in school this week. A few staff and one pupil have been self-isolating this week but they have not been in school so hopefully we can continue to be vigilant and do as much as we can to keep the risk of infection as low as possible for as long as possible.

In other news...

The children have returned to school fantastically well this week and look rested and refreshed. They have settled into their routines and have been working hard from the moment they arrived. We spoke about New Year's Resolutions in our assembly together (on TEAMS) and the children said they wanted to make a collective resolution to 'Be kind, behave well and to be ready, respectful and safe'. They also said they would like to recycle and do more for the environment which showed an excellent awareness of important issues.

To support the children with their behaviour and relationships we have developed a new policy during the autumn term and Mrs Stevens has taken a lead on this piece of work. She has worked very closely with the staff and children and the new policy was ratified by our governing body in December. This has been launched this week with the staff and children and Mrs Stevens will be sharing this with all our parents to ensure we can work together to consistently promote the highest expectations for our school community.

The closing date for applications for Reception places in September 2022 is on 15th January, so if you want a place and haven't applied yet, please make your application on time. If you know anyone who is yet to decide or apply or if they are unsure of the process, then please ask them to contact the school office and we will be happy to help. We can also arrange to show new parents around school if they would like to make an appointment.

Our first newsletter of 2022 will be coming to you next Friday so in the meantime, have a lovely weekend, stay well and many thanks for your continuing support. I hope you all have a fantastic year and look forward to working closely with you, your fantastic children and our amazing staff on exciting projects in the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Andy Mitchell (Head Teacher)