

William Penn Newsletter January 19th 2022

Communication with School

Further to last week's request, we are still finding that some parents are informing class teachers rather than the school office with regard to issues relating to the health and welfare of the pupils. Please be reminded that if you need to communicate with the class teacher about a class based or learning specific issue, please email the class teacher. **However, it is important to copy in the office@williampenn.co.uk office address as this will enable effective communication in school, as class teachers will not be able to pick up emails whilst teaching. If you need to communicate regarding other organisational/ health and welfare issues, such as pupil absence, children not feeling well or changes to collection arrangements, emails must be sent to office@williampenn.co.uk**

Medication in School

If your child requires medication in school, please contact the school office as a form is required for administration of medication. Medication will only be administered by trained members of staff. Class teachers are not trained to administer medication.

Staffing Update

We would like to congratulate Ms Passfield and her family, as they are expecting a new addition later in the year. We are currently seeking a replacement teacher for the time that Ms Passfield is away from school. We welcomed Mrs Vanessa Theophilus to our school staff this week. Mrs Theophilus is an experienced SENDCO and she is already becoming familiar with the children here.

School Meals Taster

School Census Day is Thursday 20th January 2022. We request that every Reception and KS1 pupil visits the hot meal hall on this day to taste a sample of the food on offer. Pupils who have sandwiches, may still bring a packed lunch, so they will be able to eat their preferred option. As aspects of school finance are calculated on the basis of meals taken on census days, we would be grateful for your support with this arrangement. This enables more spending to take place to enhance other aspects of children's learning.

Safeguarding/Health and Safety/Wellbeing Update

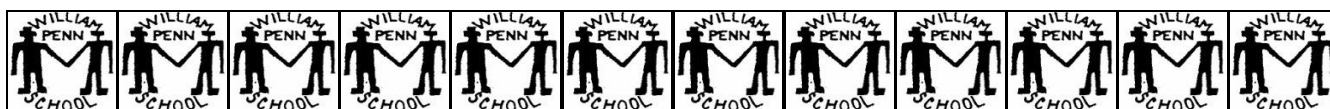
Covid Guidance – What should you do to minimise the spread of infection?

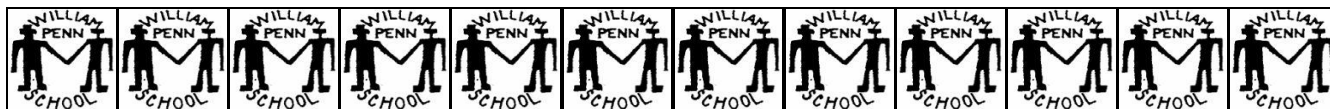
In the interests of providing consistent information to parents locally, this update is based on the most recent communication from The Weald School in Billingshurst.

If your child displays symptoms:

If your child has any of the Government's listed symptoms of Covid (High temperature, new or continuous cough and/or loss of taste/smell) then they should stay home, apply for a PCR test and follow the latest national guidelines for isolation until they get their results.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>





The ZOE COVID Symptom Study, by King's College London, has also identified more common symptoms since the emergence of the Delta and Omicron variants of Covid. These can be found here.

<https://covid.joinzoe.com/post/the-20-symptoms-of-covid-19-to-watch-out-for>

Again if your child has any of these then we suggest that they remain home and get a PCR test undertaken. Please also keep the school informed of the details of your child's absence and any updates and further test results during their absence period. We ask that parents agree a return to school date with the school.

If your child receives a positive Lateral Flow test result:

If your child's LFT result shows as being positive then please do not send them into school. Instead, if they also have symptoms, arrange for them to have a PCR test as soon as possible and follow national guidelines for isolation until they get their results.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

If you are unable to get a PCR test booked then please contact the school and we can arrange for one to be sent to you. If the PCR test is positive then they must remain isolating for the required time.

If your child's LFT result shows as being positive and they do **NOT** have any symptoms then the recently updated government advice is to accept this result and not book for a confirmatory PCR test. Instead follow the national guidelines for isolation and remain at home.

Early release from Isolation:

Please follow the national guidelines for isolation following a positive test result.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The government has again shortened the minimum isolation period and introduced an early release from isolation from day 6 (Day of positive test or onset of symptoms counts as day 0 and a full 5 days of isolation must be completed from there).

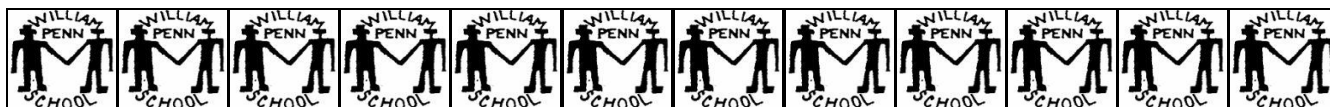
LFT tests should be taken on day 5 AND day 6. Providing BOTH of these tests are negative and are 24 hours apart and they themselves are feeling well and do not have a temperature they can return to school after the 2nd negative test.

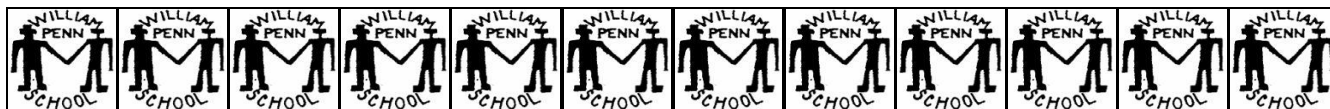
If not, then they should remain in isolation until they have either received 2 negative results or have completed the full 10 day isolation period. Please keep the school informed of the details of your child's absence and any updates and further test results during their absence period. Parents must agree a return to school date with our reception staff

What if the PCR comes back negative?

If the PCR test was undertaken within 48 hours of the positive lateral flow test and provides a negative result, then the student may return to school on the next school day, unless they feel unwell or are displaying any Covid symptoms.

If the PCR test was undertaken after 48 hours from the LFT test and provides a negative result then the student must remain in isolation until their isolation period has been completed.





If your child is identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive:

Household contacts - Current guidelines are that your child should undertake a daily LFT test for 7 days, or until 10 days after the household member who has COVID-19 started their self-isolation period if this is earlier. These should be undertaken before they leave home for the first time each day.

Providing they do not display any Covid symptoms themselves and have a negative LFT they should continue coming to school each day and are not required to isolate themselves. If they start showing any symptoms or receive a positive LFT test result then they should immediately self-isolate, book a PCR test and following national isolation guidelines

Non household contacts - Similarly, the guidelines for non-household contacts require daily LFT testing for 7 days and providing the results are negative then your child can continue coming into school.

If my child develops symptoms whilst at school

Any students who display any Covid symptoms will be required to go home as soon as possible and follow testing and isolating guidance. Parents/Carers are advised to have collection arrangements in place to be able to collect their child at short notice.

Pupil Achievements Outside of School

Congratulations to Olivia W, who spent an hour walking along Worthing beach and clearing up any litter she found. Thank you Olivia, for making a difference to the environment. Well done to Finn F, who has received a kung fu "special recognition award" for all his hard work in 2021.

If you have any pupil achievements that you would like mentioned in the newsletter, please e-mail the office: office@williampenn.co.uk

