



Dear parent / carer

As we welcome students back to Rawmarsh Ashwood today, we want to communicate with you directly about some important changes in school regarding COVID-19. These changes are intended to keep students and staff as safe as possible.

### **Self-isolation rule changes**

The government has issued new advice for those individuals who have to self-isolate following a positive PCR test. We wanted to highlight this advice to you as it has the potential to minimise disruption to any COVID-19 absences. The 10-day self-isolation period for students who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances. Students may now take Lateral Flow tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those students who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both these test results are negative, and the student does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to their education setting from day 8. Those students who are unable to test will need to complete their full 10-day self-isolation.

The government announcement on this change can be found at the following link - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

### **Contact with positive cases in school**

The NHS remains responsible for Test and Trace in England. Schools do not currently have a role in contact tracing. However, to support students, staff and families, from today the school will contact you if we are aware that your child has sustained close contact with a person who later tests positive for COVID-19. This will be based on a 48 hour window of time. It is important to note that we will not share the personal details of any positive cases when we do this. We will send you a standard message informing you and, at the same time, we will share the government advice with you. This advice is that anyone who is a close contact of a positive case should take a LFD test every day for 7 days, whilst remaining in school.

The link to this advice can be found here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you again for all of your support at this time.

Helen Marshall