

Mrs L Salter  
Head Teacher

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Bower Grove School  
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5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to start by wishing you all a Happy New Year. I hope we can keep some normality as we bring in the start of 2022. I have outlined some updates from new Government Guidance for your information.

### **Face Coverings**

Face coverings should be worn in all areas of school by staff, visitors and pupils in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt.

### **Testing for Pupils in Years 7-11**

During the first week we will be running a Lateral Flow Testing programme in school for children in Years 7-11 (where consent given) to ensure they have a negative result on returning to school.

We encourage pupils to continue testing weekly at home and to report all results to NHS Test and Trace. Even if a pupil has tested positive for Covid within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in Lateral Flow Testing on-site, if they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.

### **Information on the changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for Covid**

Since Wednesday 22nd December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for Covid has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless pupils cannot test for any reason. Pupils may now take Lateral Flow Tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those 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 pupils do not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 8. Please make sure you send through the test results to [office@bower-grove.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@bower-grove.kent.sch.uk)

### **Daily testing for close contacts of Covid**

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with Covid, should take a Lateral Flow Test every day for seven days and continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

### **Vaccinations for Children aged 12-15**

We are encouraging children aged 12 to 15, to have their Covid vaccination at a walk-in centre. This can be their 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccine. For more information please speak to your GP or visit [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

### **Winter Weather**

Now that the weather is getting colder, please ensure that children have a winter coat which they may wear in school. Please ensure it is named.

In the event of a school closure, due to snow or bad weather, please check the Kent Closures website on <https://www.kentclosures.co.uk>.

A text will also be sent to parents, please ensure we have the most up-to-date telephone number for you.

With kind regards,

*L. Salter*

Mrs L Salter  
Headteacher