



St Michael's Avenue
Yeovil, Somerset BA21 4LD

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website: www.penmillinfants.co.uk

Pen Mill Infant & Nursery Academy

Dear parents and carers,

I hope your children have enjoyed their first few days back at school and are excited to be back with their friends and teachers. We welcome Miss Charlotte Dowling who has joined the year two teaching team to cover maternity leave. She has spent the week getting to know the team and most importantly the children. We know that she will love being part of our nurturing school.

Covid update

The AMBER status will remain in place until at least the end of January and we will continue to work hard to limit disruption to children's education. As an infant school we strive to have all children on site for as long as it is safe and possible to do so. Please could we remind all parents that we require face coverings to be worn on site by all adults unless they are exempt and to limit any visits to the school office, communicating by email and phone wherever possible.

Main changes

You will know that there has been a change to the government's self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for Covid-19:

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD 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. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.



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Close contacts

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-19, 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.

Updates to National Covid-19 Guidance as of 6th January:

Asymptomatic confirmatory PCR testing from 11th Jan:

People who receive a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result should report their result on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) and must self-isolate immediately but will not need to take a follow-up PCR test.

Someone who is symptomatic, (new persistent cough, loss of change to smell or taste, or high temperature) should get a PCR even if they have already taken an LFD. LFDs should only be used for asymptomatic testing.

We appreciate that there is a lot of information to digest and if you are ever uncertain please do not hesitate to contact one of us in the school office so that we can work through the guidance with you. I look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Kind regards

Tracy Manning