Important Covid-19 testing update

Dear Parent/Carer.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support throughout the pandemic and in particular for continuing to test your child which has been one of the measures that has helped to keep our case numbers low this term.

You will be aware that the rules and guidance changes continually so I wanted to clarify these as they currently stand:

If your child is identified as a close contact of someone with Covid-19 they are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days, but can continue to attend school. If they receive a positive LFD result, then you must book them in for a confirmatory PCR test and they must isolate until the result is known.

The DfE have confirmed that even if **someone has tested positive for Covid-19 within the last 90 days**, they are strongly advised to take part in the daily testing described above. **Please note that this is a change from previous guidance stating that you are not required to test within 90 days of a positive result**. This is because data indicates that people can be infected with Omicron even when they have had a previous Covid-19 infection.

With this in mind, if your child has tested positive for Covid-19 within the last 90 days, he/she is strongly recommended to attend the return to school testing in January on the date indicated in my email to parents earlier this week. Additional LFD kits will be supplied at the test sessions.

If your child is unfortunate enough to test positive over Christmas, I would also ask that you please inform the school on covid@nsb.northants.sch.uk which I will be monitoring so that we can keep our records up to date. It is particularly important that you do this and inform us of end of isolation dates so that we can provide remote learning as required.

I do hope that you manage to enjoy the festive break this year.

Kind regards, Matthew Edwards Senior Deputy Headmaster