

4 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your children have had an enjoyable holiday and I wish you all a very happy new year. We are looking forward to welcoming all students back to school.

It is an honour and a privilege to write to you as Acting Headteacher of John Willmott School. My role is to work with the school leaders, staff and students to provide continuity and progression while Mrs Peters continues her recovery. I have worked as part of the Arthur Terry learning Partnership for the past five years and bring 26 years' experience of teaching and leadership.

The arrangements for the start of term remain as the letter sent to you at the end of last term. This letter can be found on our website, alternatively please [click here](#).

On Sunday the 2 January I received an update from the government regarding the beginning of term. The information I have received has four significant changes since the end of last term:

1. Even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing at school or at home once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.
2. Face covering should be worn in classrooms as well as communal areas. The government say this is a short-term measure. Unless exempt students will be expected to wear face coverings. If you haven't already, Parents/Carers must let school know if their child is exempt and the reason for this. An email to [enquiry@jws.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@jws.bham.sch.uk) or a call to school is sufficient.
3. The self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances. 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. If both these test results are negative, and students 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. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.
4. Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19 People who are fully vaccinated, or children under 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 school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

The Government update also emphasises:

- the need for children to have a LFD test on returning to school (times for each year group are on the letter linked above)

- all staff and students to LFD test twice a week (please be aware that LFD tests are available from student reception)
- Keep classrooms ventilated (your child can wear their school jumper with their school blazer)

Moving forward, my priority will be to ensure that students continue to be safe, happy and achieve well. Joining a school with such committed staff and talented students provides an excellent foundation for our work together.

Thank you for the central part that you all play, as parents and carers, in supporting the school. I look forward to what we will achieve together for the benefit of all our young people in 2022. In the words of Hellen Keller: 'Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much.'

Your sincerely

**Mrs N Gould**  
**Acting Headteacher**