



14th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID-19 Testing Update & Bedrock Learning Tool

The government have announced new procedures which took effect from 11 January. People **without** Covid symptoms who test **positive** on a lateral flow test no longer need a PCR test to confirm this. They should report the positive lateral flow test result and treat it as a confirmed case.

If your child tests positive for Covid, please notify the school using the following email address:
attendance@holmesdale.kent.sch.uk

Frequently asked questions:

1. **When should I keep my child off school?**

You should keep your child off school if he/she tests positive on a lateral flow test, for the relevant isolation period.

2. **What do I do if my child is a possible contact of another child/member of staff?**

Children should take a lateral flow test each day for 7 days following the last contact they had with the positive case. They should continue to come to school so long as the tests are negative. They do not need to get a PCR test.

3. **Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19**

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation.

Further [information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19](#) is available from GOV.UK

We will continue to try and prevent disruption to children's schooling and education as best as we possibly can, but it is a challenge, and we appreciate all the support you can give us with the guidance above.

Bedrock Learning - Vocabulary unlocks the key to exam success

In the first week of term, our THS vocabulary curriculum was successfully launched using the Bedrock learning tool. Bedrock is a student-friendly online literacy platform that helps students learn new vocabulary while reading interesting content about everything from the Vikings to space travel. It's highly accessible and bespoke, with each learner being introduced to new words that are at exactly the right level for them. Regular usage produces impressive outcomes with many schools reporting 24 months' reading age improvement with 8 months' practice.

Last week, each key stage 3 English class was taught about the strong correlation between reading/ vocabulary skills, and GCSE achievement across a range of subjects. Students were then trained to log-in, and how to use the system.

Every student in Years 7, 8 and 9 has a target of achieving 20 points each week. Amazingly, many exceeded this target within a few days. We have had some incredible results already.

Special congratulations to our top-scoring Bedrockers:

| Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 |
|------------|----------|-----------|
| ELSEA T | SYDNEY R | CHARLIE F |
| EVIE P | JESSE S | ISSIE H |
| ANGELINA H | ZACH R | SKY T |
| JADE T | SEAN E | EVIE B |
| BEN V | MAX E | MOLLY F |

Congratulations also to our Bedrockers who made the most effort in improving their skills:

| Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| FREDDIE C | PHOENIX J | ELLIE P |
| ERIN L | CRYSTAL J | CHARLIE F |
| PENNY A | THEO F | ELLIE A |

Parents can log on to Bedrock too, to check on their child's progress. If you need help logging in to the parent area of Bedrock simply email Mrs Andrew on: deborah.andrew@holmesdale.kent.sch.uk

Yours faithfully



Mr G Prebble
Head of School