

29 March 2021

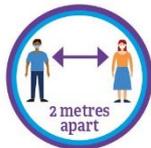
Dear parent or carer

We are writing to you to say ‘thank you’ for everything you have done to make it possible for our school to open to all pupils. By staying at home and following the rules, we have been able to significantly reduce the number of COVID cases across the district.

Whilst the rate of infection in our schools has fallen, COVID hasn’t gone away and we are still seeing a steady flow of cases being reported but, we need your ongoing support to ensure our children can keep learning at Long Lane Primary School and make sure that we reach each milestone in the Government’s roadmap out of lockdown for a gradual return to normal life.

From 29 March, outdoor gatherings (including in private gardens) of either 6 people (the Rule of 6) or 2 households is allowed, making it easier for friends and families to meet outside. Sleepovers and different household mixing indoors is still not allowed. Please stick to these rules over the Easter break and remember hands + face + space + fresh air.

Here is a reminder of what we can all do to reduce the chances of catching and spreading COVID:



Remember to keep your distance. This means keeping 2 metres apart from those not in your household or support/childcare bubble on your way to and from school and while waiting at the school gates. Also remember to wear a face covering, where you are required to, unless you are exempt.



Minimise contact with others by heading straight home after school drop off and pick up. This is the best thing we can all do to help stop the spread of COVID.



If your child uses **public transport** to get to and from school, they must wear a face covering, unless exempt.



Car sharing with people not in your household is not recommended.



Get a regular rapid COVID test if you don’t have symptoms. You can have rapid testing twice a week if you:

- Still have to leave home for work or to care for others.
- Are a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of school staff or a pupil.
- Are a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of a child at nursery or pre-school.
- Are in an occupation associated with schools such as out of school clubs or you have to visit a school or pre-school setting for your work.



We are encouraging all adults in households with school or nursery aged children to take part in twice weekly lateral flow testing at home. The **lateral flow tests should only be used for people who do not have symptoms**.

You are more than welcome to book a lateral flow test appointment at one of the four testing sites located in Newbury, Thatcham, Burghfield and Hungerford, until you feel confident enough to go through the process of lateral flow testing at home, twice weekly.

You can also pick up home testing LFD kits from our PCR testing site at Newbury Showground between 1- 8pm each day.

We will be able to offer collection of the home testing kits from our four Community Testing Sites from Tuesday 30 March.

We are also going to be launching a mobile offer visiting villages across West Berkshire to reach as many families as possible. Again, the timetable and dates for this will follow in due course.

Below are three links that will either help you to book a lateral flow test at one of our testing sites, order lateral flow home testing kits directly from the Government, or tell you how to carry out lateral flow testing at home.

- Book a lateral flow test: <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/lft>
- Order lateral flow home testing kits: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>
- COVID-19 Home testing instructions: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/testing-for-coronavirus-at-home/covid-19-home-test-step-by-step-guide-adults-and-children>

Remember, lateral flow tests are for those **without any symptoms only**.

By sticking to these rules you are helping to keep school communities and your own family safe.

If **you have COVID symptoms** you should follow the advice below:



When someone at home has COVID symptoms, stay at home and get tested via the national booking system for a full PCR test:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Everyone in the household has to self-isolate until you get the test results back. This means you must stay at home and NOT go to work, to the shops, the park or be around any other people as you risk spreading the virus to someone else. If you have to self-isolate we have information on financial support available on our Covid-19 financial support page.



Keep your children at home if you have been told to. If your child has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID, they have to stay at home to self-isolate for 10 days – even if they get a test and get a negative result because the virus can still appear. By opening a window or door and letting fresh air into your home you can help prevent the spread of the virus.



Get vaccinated. You will be invited by your GP when it's your turn to get vaccinated. The NHS has been doing a great job rolling out and administering the vaccine to each priority group. Don't delay in getting your vaccine when it's offered to you. Remember, even if you have been vaccinated, continue to follow the steps above to minimise the spread of the virus.

To find out more on the West Berkshire vaccination programme, visit the Berkshire West CCG site: <https://www.berkshirewestccg.nhs.uk/patient-information/covid-19-vaccine>.

Further advice and information on COVID can be found on the Council website: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/coronavirus-residents>.

If you are struggling and need help, please get in touch with our [Community Support Hub](#) on: 01635 503579, by email: westberksbct@westberks.gov.uk or via [our online form](#).

Thank you for following the rules and helping to keep children in school.

Yours faithfully,



Matthew Pearce
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