

Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Week A

10 January 2022



Welcome to this week's newsletter. Happy New Year and we hope that you have enjoyed a peaceful holiday. Some important information is repeated for your convenience, but there is also new content to be read.

Updated guidance from the Department for Education

As before Christmas, face coverings should be worn by students, staff and visitors in communal areas and corridors. In addition, **it is now recommended that students wear face coverings in classrooms**. Face coverings are not required in PE lessons, or when students are outdoors.

The following detailed information is taken from the DfE's guidance to schools (full information for parents and carers is [here](#)). We would be very grateful if you would discuss these changes with your son/daughter.

Face coverings

Face coverings help protect the wearer and others against the spread of infection because they cover the nose and mouth, which are the main confirmed sources of transmission of COVID-19.

From 4 January 2022, we recommend that in those schools where pupils in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn in classrooms. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons. This is a temporary measure.

Where pupils and students in year 7 and above are educated, we also recommend that face coverings should be worn by pupils, students, staff and adult visitors when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas. This will also be a temporary measure. These pupils and students must also wear a face covering when travelling on public transport and should wear it on dedicated transport to and from school.

Face coverings do not need to be worn by students when outdoors.

Circumstances where people are not able to wear face coverings

There are some circumstances where people may not be able to wear a face covering. Some people are less able to wear face coverings, and the reasons for this may not be visible to others.

In relation to education settings, this includes (but is not limited to):

- *children under the age of 11 on 31 August 2021*
- *people who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability*
- *people for whom putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause severe distress*
- *people speaking to or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expressions to communicate*

- *avoiding the risk of harm or injury to yourself or others*
- *removing a face covering in order to take medication*

Changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for Covid-19

Since Wednesday 22nd 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. 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 school from day 7

Daily testing for close contacts of Covid-19

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 school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Many thanks for your continued support with these measures.

Mr M Jones
Headteacher

On-Site Asymptomatic Covid-19 testing

Many thanks for your support with the on-site asymptomatic Covid-19 testing and the staggered start to term 3. The testing programme ran very smoothly and over the course of the two days over 900 LFD tests were completed. All test results have now been logged with the NHS; you will only have received notification of a positive result.

COVID-19 Asymptomatic Home Testing Guidance

Thank you for your continued support with Covid-19 home testing. Students were issued with new home testing kits when they attended their on-site test last week. If your child did not receive a test kit please ask them to collect one from the school office.

Wherever possible, your child should continue testing and reporting results twice a week at home.

Reporting results

Recording all test results helps scientists stay ahead of the virus by spotting new outbreaks quickly and advising how to respond.

Reporting results is easy.

Go to: [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) Or call: 119 free from a mobile or landline. Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. Support is offered in 200 languages as well as British Sign Language and Live Video Assistance.

All results should be reported, even if your child's result is negative or void. To help in communicating the importance of testing and reporting, the government has produced a blog on [why reporting your test result is as important as taking a test](#)

You should also keep a note of the test ID and share your child's results with school using [this link](#)

Universal Testing

The government is encouraging all adults to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread of coronavirus. You can order tests through the [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests](#) service.

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing. Maintaining a regular habit of testing twice a week, 3-4 days apart, will help stop the virus spreading and keep schools and colleges open to students and staff.

Symptomatic COVID-19 Testing

- Home testing using the LFD tests **does not replace testing for those with symptoms.**
- If your son/daughter (or anyone in your household) experience [symptoms](#) of COVID-19 they must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow [national guidelines](#). You will need to inform the school if this is the case.
- Once you have the result of the test please inform us as soon as possible. If the result is negative, you can then stop self-isolating and your son/daughter can return to school if they are well enough. If the result is positive they will need to continue to self-isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms and follow [national guidelines](#).
If you have any queries regarding testing please contact Carolyn Hobbs, Office Manager.
Please also see attached the Covid-19 Vaccination Parent Information Pack from Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust. This has information and links regarding the Covid-19 vaccine.

Water Bottles

Please ensure your son/daughter brings a refillable water bottle to school every day.

Face Masks in School

Please remember:

Anyone wearing reusable face coverings will be expected to bring a plastic bag to keep these in when not in use. Disposable face coverings will be disposed of in a bin when finished with and should not be reused. Everyone will be asked to wash their hands before and after putting on or removing a face covering. Everyone will be made aware that they must not touch the front of the covering during use or removal. A supply of spare face coverings will be kept for anyone who arrives without one or has a covering that's unsafe to wear, but these are for emergency provision only. Ideally students should bring their own mask. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.
Ms Rolls (Assistant Headteacher)

Does your child bring in a laptop from home to use in school?

If so, please note that as of January, students are not permitted to use their own devices in lessons. We will provide them with a school chrome book each day. This will need to be collected from the Learning Support/SEN office before 8.40, at break or lunchtime, and returned at the end of the day. Students will be able to access their school Google accounts as usual. This new measure is to ensure online safety for students in school. Please email holmes@danecourt.kent.sch.uk if you have any questions.

Site security & arrival times for students this term

Please be aware that some new security measures are being introduced this term. This means that students arriving before 08:00 will need to arrive at the main entrance as the other gates will not be open. Students should not be aiming to arrive before 08:00 as this is the earliest they should be on site.

Similarly, gates will be locked at 15:45 and students will need to exit the site via the main entrance if they are on site after this time. Students should leave the site by 16:30 at the absolute latest unless they are being supervised by a teacher. The bell will sound at 16:20 to remind students they should be leaving.

Many thanks for your support on this matter.

Ryan Bowen
Site Manager

Lost Property

We have a few unnamed items in our lost property already this term. They include a coat, a PE hoodie, a blazer, empty Tupperware, keyring and a gold-coloured ring. Please remember to name any items your child brings into school to help us quickly return any lost items. Photos of the easily identified items are set out below. If you recognise any of them, or think that the items of unnamed uniform may belong to your child, please do contact the office on 01843 864941 to arrange collection as soon as possible.

Many thanks, Office Team



Revised term dates for the Platinum Jubilee 2022

In acknowledgement of the additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the Summer term 2022 will end a day early. This means that the last day of Term 6 for students will now be Tuesday 19th July 2022.

St Giles Trust Webinar on gangs and county lines

Please see attached a flier we were sent from the St Giles Trust for a parent webinar to learn more about gangs and county lines.

I hope some might find it useful.

Anita Ives
Pastoral Support Officer

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Training

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award training starts Wednesday 19th January in D10 15.30-16.30. Attendance is mandatory for all relevant candidates. If you are ill or isolating, please email Mrs Whelan in advance.

Helping Parents and Carers to support children's emotional wellbeing in times of uncertainty

Parents might find this link to a short webinar useful in the current climate of unease. It provides support for parents to support children's emotional wellbeing in times of uncertainty and is provided by The Education People.

<https://www.gotostage.com/channel/14354ada1d2f4015be15b5354fdc6107/recording/78492404b14f4358b7b3cf5738fbf4fe/watch>

Second-hand uniform shop

The Dane Court PA will be running a second-hand uniform shop on the first Tuesday of each month starting on Tuesday February 1st at 3 until 4 pm.

It will be held in the main school entrance way. We have many items all in good clean condition.

The PA will also endeavour to open the shop at as many other events as possible when the school is open to parents. The first of these events is the year 8 information evening on January 19th so please look out for us there.

Many thanks
Parents Association

Information from Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT) regarding the Covid-19 and flu vaccinations

Walk-in covid and children's flu vaccination slots this week

[Cathie Burton, Head of School Aged Immunisation Services talks about why it's easy to pop into our walk-in COVID-19 vaccination centres for children aged 12 to 15 this week](#)

Did your child miss their COVID-19 jab at school? Why not walk-in to one of our centres this week.

Perhaps they weren't in school that day, or they've since turned 12. Or maybe you and your child needed extra time to consider having the vaccine.

Whatever the reason, Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust's (KCHFT) team of expert vaccinators is here to help.

Please [click here](#) for a link to a video on vaccination

Accompanying your child to their vaccination appointment means you can support them every step of the way. And our expert team of clinicians will also put your mind at rest and do everything they can to make your child feel comfortable.

Click [here](#) to find your nearest vaccination centre.

For more information about the Covid vaccine for 12 to 15-year-olds, click [here](#) to visit the government website or watch the video above.

Official leaflets and guidance about the COVID-19 vaccine for young people can be found [here](#).

Your questions answered

When are children offered the COVID-19 vaccine?

Children can get a first dose of the vaccine from the day they turn 12.

Most children can get a second dose from 12 weeks after they had their first dose.

If your child has tested positive for COVID-19 and is not at high risk from COVID-19, they need to wait 12 weeks before they can have a COVID-19 vaccine.

This starts from the date of their positive PCR test.

How children can get the COVID-19 vaccine

Most children aged 12 to 15 can:

- get the vaccine at school
- book their vaccination appointments online for an appointment at a vaccination centre or pharmacy
- find a walk-in vaccination site to get vaccinated without needing an appointment.

Getting the vaccine at school

Most children will be offered a first and second dose of the vaccine at school during school hours.

Second doses will be offered in schools from 10 January 2022. Children who have not yet had a vaccine can get their first dose during these vaccination sessions.

Our school immunisation teams will visit your child's school to give the vaccine.

As a parent or guardian you will get a letter or email with information about when the vaccine will be offered, and you'll be asked to give consent.

If your child misses their COVID-19 vaccination, for any reason, they will be offered it again at a later date.

If you have any questions, you can also phone, text or have a web chat with us!



0300 123 5205



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www.kentcht.nhs.uk/imms

