



Alex Pearson – Executive Principal

28th February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

**Start of Term 4**

Welcome back to Term 4, it is a lovely term in school where the days start to get brighter and longer!

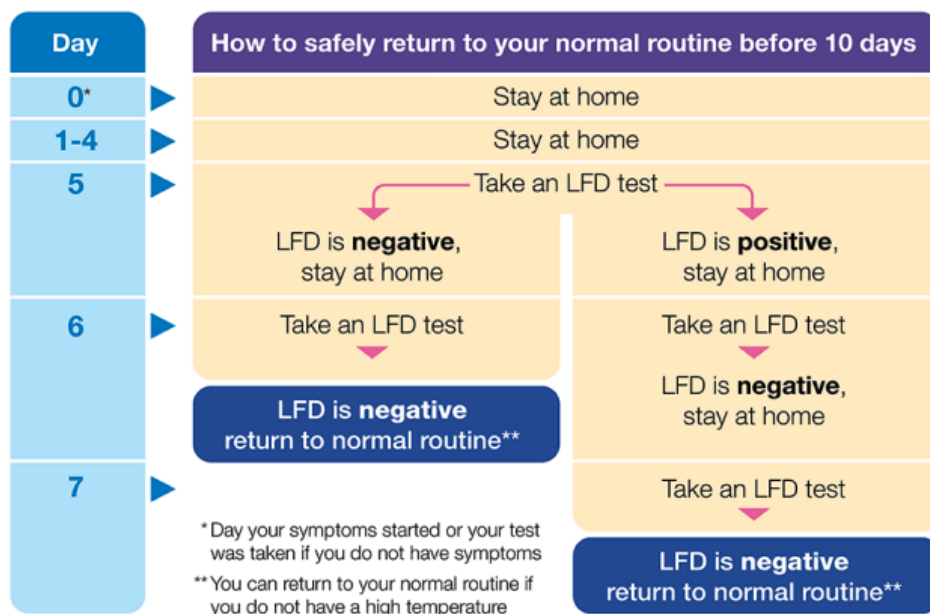
**Covid Guidance**

I am sure you are well aware that the government has now removed all Covid restrictions. Whilst this means we can continue to move towards a normal way of life, we need to be mindful that cases remain high nationally and continue to act responsibly. We need to do this to ensure we keep vulnerable staff and families safe and to minimise any further disruption to learning.

The government guidance states:

*“Welcoming children back to school - In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with the key symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending your school where they have a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, you can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in your reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.”*

In essence, the government is still advising everyone with symptoms or a positive test to isolate for at least five full days, and follow guidance until they receive two negative test results on consecutive days. Children should then return to their educational setting, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature. This guidance applies to school pupils and staff. However, the government will stop providing free tests to most of the public on 1st April. If you can, you should let people who you have been in close contact with know about your positive test result.



School attendance remains mandatory and a child with Covid will be registered as I (illness).

We will continue our other measures in school: ventilation, regular cleaning, regular handwashing. Masks are not required on the playground or in the school building but parents are welcome to wear them if they wish to do so.

### **Open Afternoon**

For the first time in two years, we are delighted to welcome parents/carers into your child's classroom tomorrow (Tuesday 1.3.22) from 2:45pm. You will have the opportunity to see the environment your child learns in and go through their work with them. There may be the opportunity to speak to their class teacher, but please bear in mind that they may be busy with children or other parents. You are welcome to take your child home when you are finished. Masks are not required but you may choose to wear one, especially if the classroom or corridor is busy.

### **Conflict in Ukraine**

We are expecting the children will want to discuss the ongoing conflict in Ukraine when they return to school tomorrow. We have taken advice on how to address this with our pupils, and we will only discuss it in any detail if the children ask us questions. Please do advise your child's class teacher if you think your child will be particularly affected by this issue (e.g. they have family in Ukraine or Russia, they have experiences linked to war/conflict).

As a parent/carers, you may find this link useful:

<https://www.barnardos.ie/media/14835/talking-to-children-about-war.pdf>

We look forward to welcoming all of the children back tomorrow. Please contact me via the school office if you have any further questions about any of the subjects in this letter.

Yours faithfully,



Alex Pearson  
Executive Principal