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Dear parents,

As I alluded to in last week's newsletter, we now have at least one known COVID case in each class bar Reception class and Year 4 currently.

Staff absence is also extremely high – we currently have 7 members of staff off with COVID which is a lot in a one form entry school. However, we have enough staff to keep classes running normally at present. By the start of next week, most staff who are absent will be back to work.

Please continue to be vigilant with the children and test them regularly on Lateral Flow Tests, which you can order online at: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> Or, if you are in luck, you can collect a pack from your local pharmacy.

There is no longer a need to go for a confirmatory PCR test unless you or your child has a symptom of COVID-19. Please keep school informed at all times if your child is going to be absent or you are unsure of what to do.

The isolation period is ten days unless there is a negative Lateral Flow Test on day six and day seven, in which case the isolation period can end immediately.

Anyone between the ages of 5 and 18 years and 6 months who is **told by NHS Test and Trace** that they are close contact of a positive case are strongly advised, to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test **every day for 7 days** from their last contact with the person who tested positive. They should attend school as normal, unless they get a positive result or have symptoms, in which case they must self-isolate. If they have symptoms, they should get a PCR test as soon as possible and self-isolate.

For every LFD test your child takes, you should report the result at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

We have done so well for so long at St Lawrence's in keeping the virus at bay but the transmissibility of this variant seems to have got the better of us. However, this feels like our 'peak' and hopefully we will be through the worst of it in the next fortnight or so.

I hope and pray that those of you experiencing the virus get a mild dose and are fit and well as soon as possible.

Many thanks

Paul Brown

Head Teacher

St Lawrence's Catholic Primary School

