

Willow Brook News

January 21st 2022

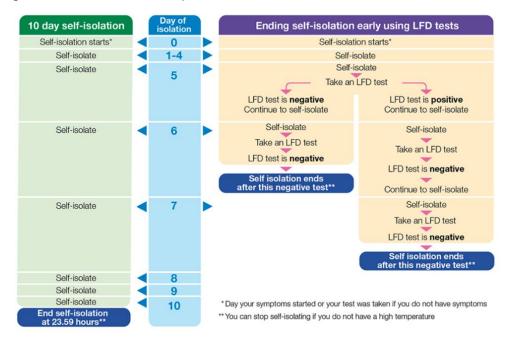
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Dear Parents and Carers,

The first few weeks of January seem to have flown by and it is good to catch the first glimpses of spring in the mornings once the playground has thawed! School has started the term with determination. In spite of a handful of Covid cases in each of our classes, children have been hard at work, whether they are on screen and learning from home or at their desks in the classroom. Thank you (yet again) for being prompt to respond to symptoms and test results and for adapting so thoughtfully to the ever-changing rules around isolation periods.

With the updated government guidance in force, you will know that your child is now required to isolate for 5 days in the event of them testing positive for Covid. With two negative lateral flow tests completed and reported on day 5 and day 6, they can then return to school. The flowchart explains the fuller requirements clearly.

From Thursday, it is no longer a requirement to wear face coverings in public. For



those who have complied with our requests over recent months, we thank you. Your thoughtfulness – whatever your personal opinions – has been appreciated.

Just a note to clarify our expectations in respect of taking part in live Teams learning from home. The offer of joining the class remotely or receiving recordings of lessons is there for children who have no option but to stay at home due to Covid. It is presumed that they are well enough to participate and ensures that there is as little disruption as possible because of the need to isolate. Invitations to live learning are not appropriate for children who you feel are too unwell to attend school. Any catch up required will be done when your child returns. Invitations will also not be sent to children who have requested Leave of Absence. Teachers have been willing to invite you into their classrooms. This is not something that has been done in every primary school and takes time and thought. I am incredibly grateful that Willow Brook teachers have been willing to teach and manage the logistics of an online audience!

Whilst we might continue to consider Covid in whatever we plan in the coming months, we are so looking forward to welcoming you back into school and involving you less remotely in your children's Willow Brook world!



The Willow Brook Waterstones Reading Challenge started with a lively practice lap last week! The scores on the track were close, but Year 1 took an early lead! The week's individual reading champions were added to the hall of fame, and we are bowled over with the positive emails of the enthusiasm and photos of reformed children curled up with a good book!

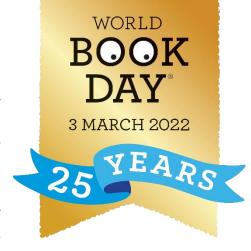
If your child has pestered you to listen to them read... told you that you really NEED to get their reading book out and they'd love you to sign their reading record book... if they've refused to leave the house without finding their book bag... we make *no* apologies at all! Regularly sharing a good book, listening to your child read or simply enjoying a great story together are essential primary school habits that will (I guarantee) enable your child to achieve their very best. We appreciate family life is demanding, but there's nothing more precious than finding a love of books at an early age. Please work with us to inspire them and make a difference.

To support our venture, we are having an evening to share some tips and information on phonics and reading for our EYFS children on **January 26th**. This will start at 6.15pm. An invitation to join us on Teams will be with you early next week. If any Year 1 parents would like to take part, you are more than welcome – please let us know.

After half term, we hope to share some information on reading progress and assessment with our older children in mind. We are also looking forward to getting back to having some family reading events and encouraging parents

to come and hear children read in school in the summer term. We have missed that over the past two years.

Whilst on the subject of reading and books... As an advanced warning, please add World Book Day on March 3rd to your calendar. We will be inviting the children to come dressed as a character from a good book. Get your thinking hats on!





This year we will also be creating a day of wellbeing and happiness on **Friday** 18th March in line with the fun of Red Nose Day. It will be a day full of red noses... t-shirts...hair?! More details will follow nearer the time.

I have the privilege of an office window that looks out on to a quiet space and several birdfeeders. I've learnt how therapeutic it is to work and watch the constant traffic of robins and wagtails who come to feed. We have made sure that tables and feeders are



dotted around the school and the children who tune in and watch are fascinated and learning so much. Next weekend we hope that you will join us in taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch. We will be sharing the project in

assemblies next week and sending some spotters' activities out with homework. Again, we hope that you can catch a moment to take part.

Have a good weekend, whatever it brings.

With kind regards,