



# Hill Top Primary Newsletter

7<sup>th</sup> January 2022



**Dear Parents/Carers,**

## **Happy New Year!**

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and had a good break ready for the start of another year.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Salter to Hill Top – it already feels like she's always been part of our school and I know the children and staff have made her feel so welcome this week.

## **Covid-19 Update**

You will be aware from all the media coverage around changes to testing and isolation rules alongside the return to school. We are working hard to keep school open in the current situation. This is not an easy task. We are seeing increased levels of staff absence across all areas of the school.

Because of our staffing levels, you may see that it is taking us longer to answer phones and respond to your queries. Please use email communications where possible and we will endeavour to respond as quickly as possible.

Should teaching staff levels significantly drop, there may be a need to switch to remote learning. This may be for certain classes and such a decision is likely to be at short notice. We will not make this decision lightly, and we ask you to bear with us.

In addition, and in line with all recommended guidance, we have contingency plans in place to be able to switch to remote learning and critical keyworker care should there be an enforced school closure.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

## **LFD Testing**

If your child tests positive using a lateral flow test, they should remain at home and follow self-isolation guidelines. The test result should be reported using the government website:

[Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result)

Please see the flow chart at the end of the newsletter which summarises the new guidance in relation to returning to school.

## **Key Contacts:**

Principal/Safeguarding: Mrs J Lancaster

SENCo: Miss L Monaghan

Office: Mrs L Wood and Mrs L Richmond – [office@hilltop.leodis.org.uk](mailto:office@hilltop.leodis.org.uk)

## **Miss Monaghan:**

Today was Miss Monaghan's last day with us for a quite a while as she officially begins her maternity leave on Monday. I'm sure you will wish her well as she starts her next chapter of early morning feeds, dirty nappies, and many sleepless nights.

As Miss Monaghan won't be with us for a while, I will be leading as SENCo as I did previously. Mrs Salter also has the SEND qualification and is extremely experienced and will be able to offer support with this role.

## **Mrs Cundall:**

I can also share some lovely news with you today that Mrs Cundall is having a baby. She is due to have a summer baby so will be here for most of the school year. I know you will wish her congratulations along with us.

## **SATs Video:**

Unfortunately, we are unable to hold our KS1 and KS2 SATs meetings in school, because of this staff will produce videos explaining all about SATs so you won't miss out on any the information. Please see the Year 2 class page for the information about KS1 SATs which will hopefully be uploaded today, although Miss Monaghan is having technical problems at the moment so it may be uploaded sometime over the weekend. Please see the Year 6 class page for their information about KS2 SATs from Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January.

## **Support Service:**

### [Brighter Beginnings Workshops](#)

The above link is for a support service called Contact. They work with families with children with additional needs and disabilities. Children do not need to have been diagnosed to access the support.

Please have a look at their website as they have 'listening ear' a telephone service for parents.

The above link is for FREE workshops for parents/carers and covers a range of subjects - toileting, sleep, anxiety, money matters, encouraging positive behaviour etc

Tel: 0113 3074750



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## Clubs:

Clubs are still available to book for the Spring Term –

Please [click here](#) to book your child a place.

## Attendance Certificates:

We have made the decision not to give out attendance certificates this year as we feel that it would be incredibly unfair as so many children have been off school with COVID-19 or have had time off to get tested due to displaying symptoms.

We hope you understand our decision in this.

## Remote Learning:

We hope that we never have to return to home learning, however for those children who are off school with COVID-19 and are well enough to complete we will send out work, although it will not be on the first working day and we will refer you to Oak Academy

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/>

Please be aware that all the class emails have changed and are, for example, year3@hilltop.leodis.org.uk . Please note that these emails are not for parents to communicate generally with teachers and we ask that any communication goes through children's planners or through the office email as they are not checked weekly by staff.



**Could a Career in Teaching be for you? We would certainly recommend it!**

Westerton Partnership provides high quality Initial Teacher Training. You can apply for your opportunity to train to be a teacher NOW! Apply today on the DfE web page on the GOV.UK website by using this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-teacher-training>

328W – Primary 3-7 Programme

328X – Primary 5-11 Programme

Please visit our school webpage for more information.

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## Important Dates:

**7<sup>th</sup> Jan:** KS1 SATs video uploaded to the Year 2 class page

**14<sup>th</sup> Jan:** KS2 SATs video uploaded to the Year 6 class page.

**I was due to send out the termly calendar dates when we returned after Christmas. Due to the restrictions in place in school no additional events have been added to the calendar. When dates are added I will inform you asap.**

## Finally,

Well today is the first day of snow for 2022 and luckily it disappeared very quickly.

Please be aware that a notification will go out on the School Jotter app if in the event of a delayed opening or school closure – which I hope does not happen. This decision would not be taken lightly, and a message will be sent out as soon as the decision is made, again with further updates on the app as necessary.

I would just like to give a final reminder to Parents who need to apply for a primary place, the deadline to apply for Reception is the 15<sup>th</sup> January.

The children have settled back into school brilliantly, they are working hard as always and are almost racing into school in a morning when Mr Fellender and I walk around the corner. We have had some new nursery starters this week who have entered with confidence and are clearly enjoying being in Nursery which is so lovely to see.

The first week has flown by and we look forward to seeing what the term brings.

Joanne Lancaster

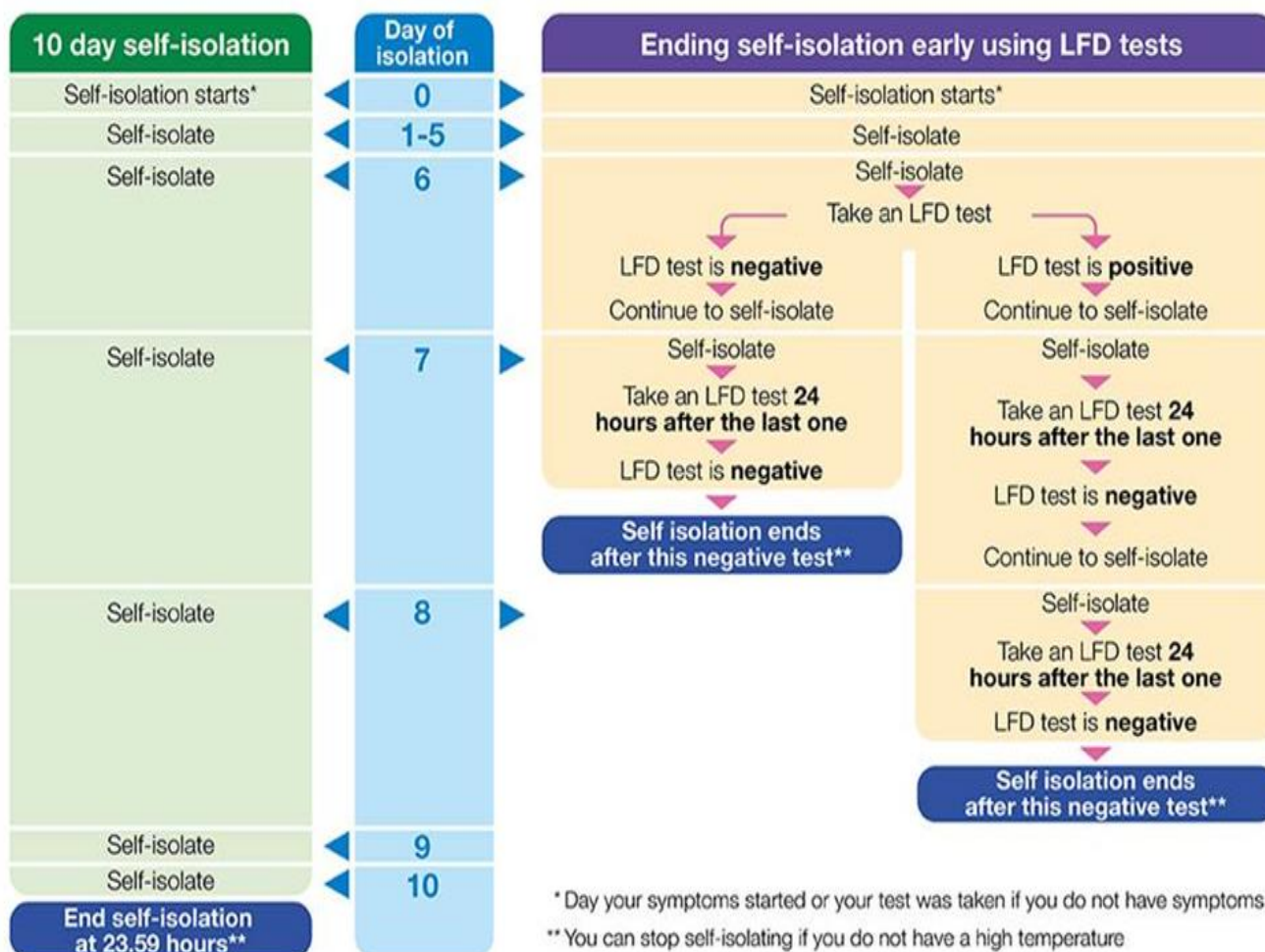
## Quote of the Week

Iris, on her first day back at school.

"Glad to be back."

Tel: 0113 3074750

We hope that the following flow chart which summarises the new guidance in relation to returning to school is helpful to you:



As guidance is being updated regularly, we recommend that you follow the national guidance in relation to testing and the need for a PCR test. Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance and support - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))chool is helpful to you:

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