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| Capture  ***Principal: Miss R Robinson***  ***Tel: 028 38851778***  ***Fax: 028 38852568***  *B Ed (Hons) M Ed PQH* | **St Mary’s Primary School**  **84 Maghery Road**  **Maghery**  **Dungannon**  **Co Tyrone**  **BT71 6PA** |

26th January 2022

Dear Parents,

Please be informed of the latest PHA guidance re testing of pupils.

All pupils with symptoms should arrange a PCR test. LFD’s are only to be used on asympotomatic pupils, i.e those pupils with no symptoms.

As the current strain of Covid 19 has changed the previous guidance of 90 day immunity is no longer correct. The current advice remains that if a child aged 5 and over, or a staff member, develops new symptoms of Covid 19 they should isolate and arrange a PCR. A PCR test should then be booked. This applies even if they have had COVID 19 within the previous 90 days or have had a negative lateral flow result on the same day as developing symptoms or a negative PCR test prior to developing symptoms.

When a case of Covid 19 is reported in a class ALL pupils will be notified and we ask parents to administer LFD’s before attending school the next day.

If 20% of a class are positive within a 10 day period, ALL PUPILS MUST TAKE A LFD. If a parent chooses not to complted an LFD with their child, the child will be treated as positive and must self-isolate for 10 days.

You may be able to end your self-isolation period after the five full days of isolation, with with release on day six, provided you have two consecutive negative lateral flow tests taken 24 hours apart, with the first of these taken no earlier than day five. Please remember to included day 0 when counting days.

The current wave of Omicron is expected to peak in coming weeks. These arrangement will be reviewed mid February 2022.

Miss R Robinson