

2021-2022

Langdon  
Primary  
School



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As we move towards the Spring there is a sense of hope in the air, not just in terms of the budding daffodils and tree blossom but also in terms of how the country is moving out of the Covid pandemic. Let's keep our fingers crossed for further progress in this direction.

The latest guidance to schools was released on the 24<sup>th</sup> February and below is a summary of this for your information:

On 21 February the Prime Minister set out the next phase of the Government's Covid-19 response. The government remains committed to the notion that minimal disruption to the lives and education of children is imperative in order to minimise potential harm to their educational attainment, life chances and physical health.

Our school will continue to assess the risks associated with Covid-19 in accordance with the guidance to schools and our updated risk assessment will be posted on the school website for your information.

Key measures to reduce Covid-19 transmission should still be employed in schools ie.

- **Ensuring good hygiene practices for everyone**

This means frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water which is now a regular practice in our school; hand sanitizer will continue to be available for staff, pupils and visitors.

We will continue to remind children of how to 'catch it, bin it, kill it' when blowing their noses.

- **Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes**

We will continue to clean heavily used areas such as classrooms, and toilets and equipment such as desks and toys, twice a day at least with recommended products.

- **Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated**

Opening of windows to allow fresh air exchange will be continued and we will use the government provided CO2 monitors to inform when we need to supplement systems by having air purges with all doors and windows open fully for a time. For the time being, as we move into the warmer weather, layers of clothing are recommended in order to keep children warm in classrooms. I have always asked staff to turn up the heating, even with the windows open, in order to ensure the children are not uncomfortable and we will continue with this despite the rising energy costs - cold children are too distracted to learn effectively and the same is true for staff and their teaching.

- **Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid-19**

There is no longer a **legal** requirement for people with Covid-19 to self-isolate, however if you have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive PCR or LFD test result, **the public health advice** is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. If you have one of the three main symptoms you should arrange a PCR test and stay home, avoiding contact with others, until you receive the result of this.

On the next page, I have cut and pasted the advice from the guidance notice for people with Covid-19 and their contacts which can be found in full at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts>

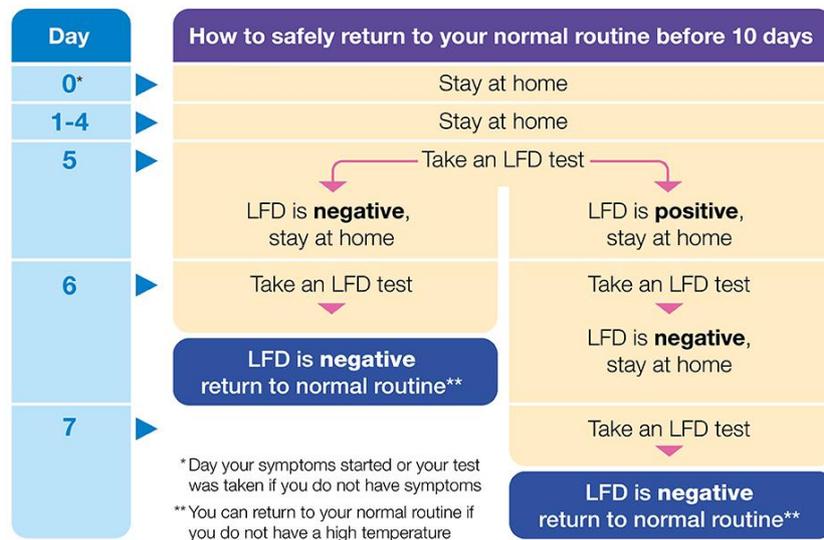
## **If you have Covid-19, stay at home and avoid contact with other people**

If you have Covid 19 you can infect other people from 2 days before your symptoms start, and for up to 10 days after. You can pass on the infection to others, even if you have mild symptoms or no symptoms at all. If you have COVID-19 you should stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

You should:

- not attend work. If you are unable to work from home, you should talk to your employer about options available to you. You may be eligible for [Statutory Sick Pay](#)
- ask friends, family, neighbours or [volunteers](#) to get food and other essentials for you
- not invite social visitors into your home, including friends and family
- postpone all non-essential services and repairs that require a home visit
- cancel routine medical and dental appointments. If you are concerned about your health or you have been asked to attend an appointment in person during this time, discuss this with your medical contact and let them know about your symptoms or your test result
- if you can, let people who you have been in close contact with know about your positive test result so that they can follow this guidance

Many people will no longer be infectious to others after 5 days. You may choose to take an LFD test from 5 days after your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you did not have symptoms) followed by another LFD test the next day. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, the risk that you are still infectious is much lower and you can safely return to your normal routine.



If your day 5 LFD test result is positive, you can continue taking LFD tests until you receive 2 consecutive negative test results.

Children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting while they are infectious. They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they should return to their educational setting if they normally attend one, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature. They should follow the guidance for their educational setting.

Avoid meeting people at higher risk of becoming seriously unwell from COVID-19, especially those with a severely weakened immune system, for the 10 days after your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you did not have symptoms).

The latest guidance for schools states that, *'In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with the key symptoms of Covid-19 should not attend school, given the potential risk to others'* and I am happy to say that almost all parents at Langdon have supported this premise throughout the pandemic. I would ask that you continue to do so for the foreseeable future. If we have concerns about symptoms in your child, please continue to test with a LFD test and, if positive, seek a PCR for confirmation. Schools still have the right, under the current guidance to, *'refuse the pupil entry to school if, in your reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection of Covid-19'*.

The latest advice to schools also states that from 24 February, contacts of people with Covid-19 are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests. Contact tracing has ended.

Staff and visitors will no longer be required to wear face coverings in school in any areas, including shared areas, although we will be happy for anyone who wishes to continue to wear one for their own peace of mind or safety to do so. In the case of an outbreak that warrants advice to the school from a director of public health, face coverings may be temporarily advised and if this happens we will, of course, let you know.

Finally, on the subject of Covid-19, schools are still required to provide Remote Education for those who are at home self-isolating because they have tested positive. We are legally bound to share our plans for this with you so they will be posted on the school website each term for you to refer to for tasks to do if your child is at home. Teachers will send English and Mathematics tasks to your child for them to complete on a daily basis using SeeSaw and these should be returned on completion via a photograph or scan to SeeSaw. Please bear in mind that if your child is self isolating, the teacher may not be able to respond to them instantly because they will be in school teaching their class during normal hours.

### WORLD BOOK DAY



This year for World Book Day on Thursday 3 March 2022, we are going to follow the theme of 'Bedtime Stories'. All children are invited to come into school wearing their pyjamas, dressing gowns and slippers (although shoes will be needed for outdoor activities). Children should bring with them a favourite bedtime toy and a favourite bedtime story to share. Teachers will be reading favourite bedtime stories during the day with their classes and there will be a 'live' Zoom or SeeSaw bedtime story for your child to join in with at 6.30pm - details of how to access this will be sent by your child's class teacher at the time.

For those who haven't experienced World Book Day before, your child will come home with a £1 book voucher that can be used to either purchase a special £1 World Book Day book, these books are available from your local book store, or that can be put towards the cost of any book. The voucher is valid between Thursday 17 February and Sunday 27 March 2022 and can only be redeemed in book stores, not online. Be aware that the £1 books tend to be purchased quite quickly so do pop along to the book shop quickly if you wish to have one of these. This year's selection can be viewed at <https://www.worldbookday.com/books/>

## THEME WEEK - DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

During the week beginning 7 March 2022 we will be holding a whole school themed week on the subject of Design Technology. Children will be working all week on activities that involve designing, evaluating, improving and modifying a range of projects. We have arranged for a STEM workshop for each class to happen on Friday 11 March 2022. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics and children in each class will be using the skills needed in these subjects in the following activities:

KS1 - Make Do Challenge – children work in groups of three or four using nuts, bolts, screwdrivers and saws to design and make a creative cardboard construction

Lower KS2 - KNex Challenge – children work in pairs to make a KNex model to a design brief. Closest to the brief at the end wins the challenge!

Upper KS2 - Lego House Challenge – children work in teams of three or four to make a small demonstration model, then construct their own designs from component LEGO parts that they 'buy' with limited funds; once complete they work out the area and volume of the building and how much material they have used.

Design Technology is a part of the National Curriculum which teaches the children how to begin with a design, how to safely use simple tools and resources to make a product and then how to evaluate and modify it to make it a better product. It gives the children the opportunity to develop skill, knowledge and understanding when making functional products but also develops creativity through design, evaluation and improvement. By focussing on this subject over a whole week, we can really give quality time to teaching this subject in depth. And don't worry (I know some of you will, I mentioned a saw!), as always, we consider and reduce the risks. We are looking forward to seeing what the children learn and produce - look out for lots of photos on SeeSaw!



## TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT UKRAINE

The news this week has been flooded with reports and images of the emerging conflict in Ukraine. It is hard to watch the images of missile attacks, burning buildings and real people's responses but we somehow do, and our children do too. We have noticed in school that there are children who are talking about the crisis - some with gleeful delight at the bombing and destruction and some in terror, fearing an impending third world war. Clearly, we have to address this interest and the concern that children are expressing in order that it doesn't either become too glorified or too scary. So, the following tips may be helpful in terms of how we ensure that our children know just what they need to know and no more than that, so that we don't cause too much panic and worry; goodness knows our children have had enough of that during the time of the pandemic.

First and foremost, remember that **children count on adults to make the world a safe and secure place even when it is frightening**, and it's our job to ensure that our reactions to the world news doesn't stop that being the case.

Be careful about how you talk about the Ukraine situation with your children and how and when you watch it. Children of primary school age understand little of what international conflict really is, what the impact is or indeed, where it is. What they do do is listen to what you say, watch what you watch and they talk about this in the playground, using your words, so if you are talking with terror about impending doom on our doorstep, they are likely to repeat that to their classmates.

Believe you and me, we know every parent's viewpoint on a range of subjects because your children tell us, usually in the words you have used - you probably hear the same at home from us!

Take care not to zone into the crisis on the media every time it is on TV or keep checking the tablet for updates in front of your children. They will watch you do this and they will begin to want the same kind of update to feed their emotional response.

Talk about it with adults if you need to but do so away from your children; keep your children's understanding to the facts and above all reassure them that good will prevail (even if it doesn't seem like it at the time). If they ask questions about the situation, answer them calmly, objectively and honestly but always at the right level for their understanding. Use facts as far as possible rather than emotive language or descriptive images or opinions. If they ask a question that you don't know the answer to, say that you don't know - they are used to the teachers saying this in school so they know that adults aren't always able to give answers but that they will when they find them out.

Don't lose sight of the fact that although you may have a mature child who you feel can cope with more than this, some of the children they mix with and talk to will not have the same level of maturity and ability to cope with this kind of topic. If you are the parent of the mature child, explicitly tell them to be mindful of how they talk in school so that they don't upset their peers.

Ask your child what they know already if they do raise the subject of Ukraine. This is a chance to find out what they have already gleaned and to put right any misinformation or misconceptions that they have. When children are asked about their knowledge, they feel empowered and they will give you everything they know - warts and all!

Finally, if you're not sure what to say to your child if the subject is raised (and don't feel that you need to raise it unless they do, it's probably not of interest, concern or something they are developmentally ready for) then tell them something like this: that the Russian leader made a decision to send military troops into Ukraine which is an independent, democratic nation and not part of Russia.

Many countries around the world, including the UK, do not support this action. They are working together to try to stop the conflict.

And finally, the teachers will be able to help if you feel that your child is overly concerned - please ask.

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

| Date      | Event                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Time           |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 21.2.22   | Beginning of Term 4                                                                                                                                                                                       |                |
| 3.3.22    | World Book Day - dress in pjs and dressing gowns!                                                                                                                                                         |                |
| Wb 7.3.22 | DT Theme Week                                                                                                                                                                                             |                |
| 11.3.22   | STEM Challenge day                                                                                                                                                                                        |                |
| 18.3.22   | Comic Relief - wear red and bring money for comic relief cookies and cakes                                                                                                                                |                |
| 1.4.22    | Spring Service at St Augustine's Church, East Langdon - Parrots and Owls Classes<br>Easter Service at St Augustine's Church, East Langdon - Hawks and Eagles Classes<br>o/c Children begin Easter Holiday | 10am<br>1.30pm |
| 19.4.22   | Beginning of Term 5                                                                                                                                                                                       |                |

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