

Pear Tree Mead Academy

Educating children 2 – 11

Pear Tree Mead, Harlow, CM18 7BY

☎ 01279 836181

headteacher@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk

Head Teacher

Mrs C. Peden BA(Ed) (Hons)

Chair of Governors Mrs W Beckett

Deputy Headteacher

Mrs L Davies BA (ChEd)

Assistant Head Mrs Rebecca Arnould BA (Hons) PGCE

SEND Co & Head of Early Years Mrs S Martin LLB (Hons) (PGCE) NASENCO



Dear Parent / Carer

I'm sure you will be aware of the changes to testing coming into practice from 11 January.

The change is that in England, people who receive positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results for coronavirus (COVID-19) will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK. Whilst levels of COVID-19 are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19.

Lateral flow tests are taken by people who do not have COVID-19 symptoms. Under this new approach, anyone who receives a positive LFD test result should [report their result on GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) and must self-isolate immediately but will not need to take a follow-up PCR test.

Anyone who develops 1 of the 3 main COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home and self-isolate and take a PCR test. They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test – these rules have not changed.

In addition to this and in line with the reduced self-isolation approach announced on 22 December, anyone who tests positive will be able to leave self-isolation 7 days after the date of their initial positive test if they receive 2 negative LFD results, 24 hours apart, on days 6 and 7. This is providing that you do not have a high temperature or have developed new symptoms. If you still have a temperature or have developed new symptoms you should continue to isolate until the full 10 days is over.

Thank you for continuing to support our school to remain a safe place.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Peden
Head teacher



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