

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a good Christmas and managed to spend time with family and friends. We are all looking forward to welcoming the children back to school tomorrow.

You may have seen the recent announcement by the Department for Education (DfE) regarding measures to contain the Omicron variant of COVID. The guidance does not contain any major changes for primary schools, however, we wanted to highlight to you the measures in place and the additional measures.

Face Coverings

- All parents and staff are asked to wear a face mask for drop off and pick up.
- All staff and essential visitors will wear a mask while in communal spaces.
- Primary aged children are not expected to wear a face covering.

Hygiene and Cleaning

- Handwashing/ hand sanitiser on entry to classrooms will continue.
- Regular hand washing and sanitising throughout the day will continue.
- Additional cleaning throughout the day will continue.

Ventilation and Air Quality

- Schools will continue to use the DfE's CO2 monitors in classrooms to check on air quality.
- Having windows open to let fresh air into indoor spaces can help remove air that contains virus particles and prevent the spread of coronavirus. This will mean that during the winter months classrooms will be colder than usual. Children are still required to wear school uniform but may wear extra layers of clothing under or over their uniform if they are cold.

Minimising Contact Between Groups

- Mixing classes will be minimised where possible without disrupting teaching and learning.
- Before and after school wraparound care continues.
- Planned tuition will commence.

Testing

- Staff continue to test at least twice weekly using lateral flow device tests.
- Regular lateral flow testing at home continues to be highly recommended for all children (minimum twice weekly) and before returning to school from the Christmas holidays.
- Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms must take a PCR test and isolate pending results.
- Anyone aged 5 years and over, who has been identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 and who is not legally required to self-isolate, is now strongly advised to take a rapid lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days or until 10 days since their last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19 if this is earlier. If any of these LFD tests are positive they should self-isolate in order to protect other people. For Nursery children, a PCR test for close contacts is recommended as well as regular LFD testing (if acceptable to parents).
- The government has announced that those who have tested positive may finish their self isolation on day 7 if they have negative lateral flows on days 6 and 7. The DfE has confirmed that the 7 day guidance also applies to children.

The recommendation is for all children returning to school to take a lateral flow test before coming in tomorrow morning. It is well publicised that LFTs are difficult to obtain at the moment and children should return to school even if they have not managed to do a lateral flow test.

We will keep you updated if any changes need to be made as the days and weeks pass, please do get in touch if you have any questions.

Best wishes,



Mary Gray
Head of School

