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3rd January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year.

As you will all be aware, there have been some changes to the COVID Guidance for Schools over the break. We are in the process of updating our Risk Assessment and Parent Handbook in line with this guidance and will be informing you via ClassDojo and the website when they have been published.

The main changes relate to the wearing of face coverings in classrooms, which is being asked nationally of all mainstream secondary students. As you are aware, our students are exempt from wearing face coverings however, if they wish to wear them, and are able to do so safely, we are happy for them to do so. All staff will be asked to continue to wear coverings outside of their classrooms, e.g. corridors.

Whilst there will be no changes to arrangements for dropping off and picking up children at the beginning and end of the school day, we do ask that parents/carers do not enter reception unless they have an appointment. Any children brought into school after the normal start time will be collected from outside reception.

There have been changes to isolation guidance for close contacts of someone who has tested positive to COVID-19. Anyone aged 5 years and over who has been identified as a contact is now required 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 however, if they remain negative they can continue to attend school.

Can we again urge parents of any secondary aged child to ensure that, if possible, their children are tested before coming into school tomorrow (Tuesday 4th January) and again later in the week. Please inform your child's class teacher of the result of this test by the normal means, e.g. email, ClassDojo, home/school liaison book.

We wrote at the end of last term stating that we would be having a small on-site testing facility for any secondary aged child who is able to self-administer the test (with support).



Please ensure if you would like your child to be tested in school that you send the permission slip in with your child.

The main message remains the same, please do not send your child into school if they are showing any of the main symptoms of COVID 19 which remain:

- High temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- New, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

There have however been many news reports regarding symptoms of the new Omicron strain which are:

- Runny nose
- Headache
- Fatigue (mild or severe)
- Sneezing
- Sore throat

As you are no doubt aware, the number of people across the country testing positive is again on the increase. We will be continuing to prioritise education and firmly believe that our pupils/students should be in school receiving face to face sessions however, we need to ensure that our classes operate safely with enough staff to provide the care and support necessary to meet pupil/student needs. In cases where there are insufficient staff for this to happen, we may need to return to remote learning. In these cases, pupils/students will be provided with work to complete at home as well as daily remote sessions. Please be assured action such as this will only be taken as a last resort and will be for the shortest amount of time possible.

We will be in touch later in the week to provide further updates regarding school operation.

Kind regards



Adrian Mount
Headteacher