



3rd December 2021

Dear parents/carers,

In response to the Prime Minister's announcement on 27th November and the introduction of temporary measures as a result of the Omicron variant, this week we have received revised 'Schools COVID-19 Operational Guidance' to support us in managing the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus. We have been advised that the revised documentation remains subject to change as scientists learn more about this new variant.

In response to the guidance recommendations, we will continue to kindly ask all visitors that may have to come into school to wear a face covering if in the school's reception area or within the building for any reason. This will help to protect both you as the wearer and the members of staff/pupils against the spread of infection. In line with the guidance, staff will continue to wear a face covering when moving around corridors and communal areas within school. With regards to our children, the health advice continues to state that children in primary school are not required to wear face coverings and should not be asked to wear one. As with all previous guidance, we will continually monitor the situation and we adjust our safety controls if required.

All individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of Covid-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, will be contacted directly and required to self-isolate immediately and asked to book a PCR test. If this is the case, you will be informed by NHS Test and Trace and they will provide you with details about self-isolation.

As always, our school's risk assessment is available for you to view on our school website (under the 'Parents' tab and then 'Covid-19 Information').

**Thank you for your continued support with our requests for a PCR test when your child presents with symptoms of Covid-19: a new cough, temperature and loss of taste and smell. Additionally, thank you for your support in carrying out PCR tests for additional illnesses, as requested by our local public health team. Our direction from PHE now UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), based on local infection profiles, has been to take a cautionary approach to those people who are unwell enough not to be at school. This includes advice for anyone who is unwell enough not to attend school for any reason, to be strongly advised to get a PCR test and not to return to school unless their test result is negative, and they feel well; and if any parents choose not to have their child tested, they should keep their child home until 48 hours after symptoms have cleared.**

Thank you for your continued support, it helps us immensely with our monitoring and reporting of cases to the Local Authority and minimising of the potential spread of COVID-19 within school.

Kind regards,

Mrs Gibbins  
Head of School.