

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

### **Covid-19 Updates**

Dear Families,

I am writing to let you know what the school's approach will be if COVID-19 absences amongst staff become too high to continue to operate the school normally. **At present, the school continues to be open and you do not need to do anything differently in terms of arrangements.**

#### **Primary**

If staffing absences occur as part of the latest wave of COVID-19, including the Omicron variant, we will first seek to cover all classes through supply staff or internal cover. We are determined to avoid disruption to your child's education as far as we can.

If we cannot secure the necessary cover, we will close the classes affected and you will be contacted as soon as possible. Any child in an affected class will need to stay at home for a specified period.

Appropriate work will be set for the class and we will communicate how this should be accessed and completed on the day of the closure. This will vary from class to class and will depend on the availability of teachers and others to work remotely.

I appreciate that any closure will be disappointing for pupils, and cause inconvenience for families. However, the safety of everyone in school is our absolute priority and we will continue to do everything we can to manage the risks.

As COVID-19 cases rise in the community and nationally, it is important that we continue to follow public health advice.

#### **What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19**

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, we ask that they do not come to school and take a PCR test. Anyone with symptoms is eligible for PCR testing, even if a LFT result is negative, and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

#### **Symptoms**

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)



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**For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.**

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

**Helping to stop the spread of Covid**

Since there is continued concern around the 'Omicron' variant at the present time, we will continue to maintain our current approach in school to help stop the spread. We ask for your help in supporting us in keeping these routines in place. This approach includes:

- Regular testing at home – if a member of the household is positive your child should undertake daily LFTs and only attend school if the LFT is negative (if positive a PCR should be booked immediately)
- Operating separate zones for pupils in lessons and at break and lunch times to reduce mixing
- Washing or sanitising hands regularly
- Maintaining social distancing from pupils in other year groups
- Following classroom cleaning routines such as using the wipes provided and seating plans

**Further Information**

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Please keep yourselves safe and healthy. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch in the usual way.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Skinn  
Principal