

3rd January 2022

Dear parent/carer,

Firstly, happy new year to you all. I hope, despite the ongoing challenges, you have all managed to enjoy a wonderful Christmas period with your family / friends. We are all so pleased and excited to be able to welcome the children back to school tomorrow. I know through discussions with many of you on the yard on the final day, we were all unsure of what may happen over the last few weeks and what the return to school in January may look like.

Below is a brief update / reminder regarding the current measures in school and some changes to our provision this week, such as school dinners.

COVID-19 update / impact on schools:

We have received very few updates from the DfE and government regarding the return to school after the Christmas break, but what we do know is that **children will return as normal tomorrow**. As you may expect, this will be yet another difficult time with staff and pupil absences, and ask you to continue your fantastic support by adhering to measures and expectations in place to keep us all as safe as possible.

Children will all return to school tomorrow **under the same enhanced covid measures that were in place prior to the holidays**. Staff and visitors will wear face coverings in school whilst in communal / shared spaces and when working closely with children. Good hand hygiene, cleaning and ventilation procedures will continue to be vital, with Co2 monitors in all classrooms and staff modelling to the children and having high expectations of these protective measures. **We encourage parents/carers to wear face coverings when on site and maintain good social distancing. Parents/carers must wear a face covering if entering the school building for any reason.**

Staff continue to test twice weekly and all staff have been asked to test tonight in advance of returning to work tomorrow. We would strongly encourage all parents/carers to do the same. Children at primary school are not expected to test regularly, unless they have been in close contact with a positive case, where current guidance states they should take an LFD test daily for 7 days. **Children can continue to attend school during this time unless they display symptoms or test positive.**

The 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days, unless you cannot test for any reason. Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and they do not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to their education setting from day 8. Up-to-date guidance can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/4z3c6vu7>

We continue to ask that parents/carers do not send any children to school with symptoms of COVID-19, and if unsure, to book a PCR test. In many cases of the Omicron variant, symptoms are being reported as often very similar to a common cold.

Changes to school meals service this week:

Due to staff absences, we are unfortunately only available to offer a limited menu this week in school. Children will be able to choose from **sandwiches or jacket potato, there will be no red or yellow option** this week. We are very hopeful that our full menu offer will return from Monday 10th January. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.

Regular school activities:

All other regular activities in school such as clubs, events and trips will all continue as planned in-line with current guidance. You may have heard of some schools re-implementing bubbles or even remote learning from home. Current guidance and expectations for schools is very clear, children do not need to be kept in specific groups or 'bubbles', this allows for schools with staffing challenges due to COVID-19 to keep children in school and receive face to face teaching. Remote learning will only be used as a last resort where we do not have sufficient staff to teach the children in school, unless government guidance changes.

Hopefully, despite the obvious continued challenge that COVID-19 is presenting us with, we can look forward to a fantastic Spring term in school with lots of wonderful learning opportunities and experiences for our fantastic children. I look forward to seeing them and you upon our return to school tomorrow.

As always, if you have any questions or queries, or would like clarity on anything, please do not hesitate to get in touch directly with me via dojo or contact the school office.

Many thanks,



Mr Holmes

Headteacher