

Dear families,

Happy New Year. We do hope that you had a lovely break and were able to spend some quality time with families.

Welcome back! We are excited to get the new term started with lots of fantastic learning going on. As I'm sure you are aware, currently there are significant number of cases of COVID-19 nationally and the new Omicron variant spreads very easily. Whilst we will do all we can to hopefully prevent any spread, there is a risk that this may lead to numbers of cases in school rising at some point this term. As ever, our priority is to keep school open. The biggest difficulty we will face will be staff absence, and we will do our best to keep classes and school open, as we did when we had 16 staff absent last half-term.

We will be continuing school routines from the previous half term. Opportunities for the children to mix whilst they are inside will be limited in order to reduce contact opportunities. Similar to last term, if children have symptoms, a new continuous cough, loss of taste and smell or a temperature, they will be expected to get a PCR test. If it is negative, then they may return to school. The new Omicron variant reportedly presents a different set of symptoms; these include fatigue, headaches and a sore throat. These however are not officially confirmed. If your child shows those symptoms then you may consider doing a lateral flow test.

If someone in your household tests positive or if children are confirmed as a contact to someone who has tested positive, they are still allowed to come to school but they are requested to carry out a lateral flow test every day for seven days. If the test is negative, then they can come to school. If a child receives a positive lateral flow test, they must get a PCR test. If that is negative, they can return to school.

If your child receives a positive PCR test, they must isolate for at least seven Days. On Day 6 and 7 they can do a lateral flow test and if both are negative and they have no temperature, they will be free to return to school on Day 8. If they do not do a lateral flow test on Day 6 and 7, they must isolate for the full 10 days. I have included a flow chart to help you understand the current guidance.

I know you will support us to keep families and our communities safe. If you have any concerns or queries, please don't hesitate to contact us. If you need any advice, please just ask. We look forward to seeing you all tomorrow. Although it is not essential to wear a mask on the school site, please follow social distancing guidance where possible, and should distancing not be possible, you may consider wearing a mask.

With very best wishes,



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