

Wednesday 1 December 2021

Dear parents

RE: Temporary measures in place following the emergence of the Omicron variant

As you may already be aware, on Saturday 27 November, the Prime Minister [announced](#) new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK.

In response to the measures I just wanted to make you aware of the following changes:

- **The [current guidance on contact tracing and isolation](#) remains in place.** In addition to these, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days **regardless of vaccination status or age.** You will be contacted directly and told to isolate. Therefore do not send your child to school if they have been asked to self isolate. Parents should not enter the school grounds if they have been asked to self isolate.
- **Travelling abroad.** The [guidance on what to do when you arrive in England](#) has changed. If you have planned to travel abroad during the Christmas holidays please follow the guidance. Please bear in mind that the children start back at school on Wednesday 5 January 2022.
- **If parents are attending events at the school e.g. Class assembly, Christmas concerts** parents are encouraged to take a lateral flow test before attending and wear a face mask (unless exempt). The GPPSA Christmas Fayre is being held outside, parents are encouraged to take a lateral flow test before attending.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of the following:

- **Your child should not come to school if they have developed COVID-19 symptoms or have had a positive test result.** If your child develops [COVID-19 symptoms](#) (high temperature; a new continuous cough; or a loss or change in sense of taste or smell) however mild, they will be sent home and you should follow public health advice. You should get a PCR test to check if your child has COVID-19 as soon as possible and your child should stay at home and self isolate until they have had the test results back. If your child tests positive, your child is required to self isolate. Please inform the school ASAP. If your child has a positive LFD test result, they should also self-isolate in line with the [guidance](#). Whilst waiting for the PCR result, your child should continue to self isolate at home and not attend school. Please also inform the school of any positive LFD result.
- It is recommended that households test twice weekly for COVID-19 **using rapid lateral flow tests.** Around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 do not have symptoms. Rapid lateral flow tests help to find cases in people who may have no symptoms but are still infectious and can give the virus to others. Please click [here](#) for more information about ordering rapid lateral flow tests.

We are continuing to follow the control measures we currently have in place which includes:

- **Ensuring good hygiene for everyone:** Frequent and thorough hand cleaning will continue to be regular practice. We will continue to encourage children and adults to clean their hands regularly, with soap and water or hand sanitiser. The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach will continue to be very important for good respiratory hygiene.

- **Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents:** We will continue to maintain an appropriate cleaning schedule. This includes regular cleaning of areas and equipment with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.
- **Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated:** We will continue to ensure our school is well ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained.
- **Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19:** We will continue to advise that pupils, staff and adults follow the public advice on testing, self-isolating and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19 in line with the guidance.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school community safe.

Best wishes to you and your families

Tijen Hassan
Headteacher