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Headteacher: Mr J Parr BA Hons

Tuesday, 4 January 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope that you have enjoyed a safe and enjoyable Christmas break.

I am writing with some start of term updates, including some important information which impacts on pupils and staff from tomorrow, when pupils return to school.

DFE update

You will be aware of the Government drive to keep schools open wherever possible, which we absolutely support. To be able to manage this, the Government are strongly encouraging frequent home Lateral Flow Testing, twice weekly. We think this remains a sensible action to take so that we can minimise the risk of infection transmission. To support this, we are asking for all pupils to Lateral Flow Test **before** attending school on Wednesday 5th January. We thank parents and students very much for their support in this.

Some of you have also agreed to have an additional test in school, which will be organised across the remainder of this week when pupils return. You will understand that this is part of the government's strategy to reduce transmission and help keep schools open.

Face coverings

Following the recent Government announcement, we will be reintroducing the requirement for face coverings be worn in classrooms from tomorrow, 5th January 2022. Pupils and staff will still be required to wear a face covering in communal areas, at break/lunch when not eating/drinking and on school transport. **Please do send your child in with either a re-usable/washable face covering or a supply of disposable face coverings.**

Clarification on the changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, 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. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting.

Executive Headteacher

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Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation.

For full details: [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)

Close Contacts

You will be aware that the governments system for close contacts has changed slightly too. People who are fully vaccinated, OR children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, who have been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take a Lateral Flow Test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Vaccinations for pupils

We have been told that there will soon be an update from the NHS about vaccinations for school aged pupils. We are aware that this is also a central and important component of the Government's strategy to manage Covid and to help keep schools stay open.

Some staffing change news now. At the end of last term, we said farewell to Dr Wilson who joined us on a temporary basis to teach science from September until Christmas. We wish Dr Wilson the very best for the future and thank her for her hard work throughout the Autumn Term. Joining us to teach science, we welcome Mr Gardner-Hart to the science staff team. I am sure that pupils will make him very welcome as usual.

Finally, you will be aware of the Government guidance to schools to consider "combining classes" to ensure pupils continue learning in the classroom amid expected Omicron disruption next term. Of course, we will only resort to such measures in situations where it is unavoidable, but should this be necessary, we will endeavour to minimise the impact on student learning as much as possible.

Kind regards

John Parr
Headteacher