

16th December 2021

Dear Parents /Carers,

Covid -19 Trust update

As the Autumn term reaches its end and families look forward to the Christmas break, we wanted to provide an update with regard to coronavirus. Cases at schools and area resources bases have fluctuated in recent weeks, but we are well aware that children with the virus often display little, if any, symptoms and with the prospect of children meeting up with relatives and friends over the Christmas period, it is especially important to be aware of the recognised symptoms of Covid-19. These recognised symptoms continue to be:

- a high temperature,
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of taste or smell

If your child experiences any of the above symptoms, it is strongly recommended that they have a PCR test. We have also noticed that where children have tested positive, they have often experienced a headache, fatigue, diarrhea and a feeling of sickness and if your child experiences any of these symptoms it would also be recommended for them to have a PCR test. Lateral flow kits for home testing can be ordered online or available in school this week.

New guidance from Tuesday 14th December

The government has shared new guidance with us this week with regard to close contacts of positive cases. Having read the guidance, we can summarise it as follows:

- All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating.
- Those identified as close contacts will be notified by Test and Trace.
- Close contacts taking daily lateral flow tests should report their results on the Online Reporting System (you can find this by searching "Report a covid test").
- If a person's lateral flow test delivers a positive result, they should book a PCR test to confirm the result.
- If the PCR is positive, a person should isolate for 10 days.
- If the PCR is negative, there is no need to isolate, but the seven days of lateral flow testing should continue.

- Children under 5 do not need to take part in daily lateral flow tests or isolate if they are a close contact.
- Anyone over 18 years and 6 months who is not fully vaccinated must isolate in line with government guidance if identified as a close contact.

Start of term in January

We anticipate that schools will be fully open in January, but will keep a close eye on announcements over the Christmas period and if there are any changes to how we arrange the school day we will be sure to communicate these to you at the earliest opportunity.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to get in touch.

Thank you for your cooperation and ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,



Ruth Zimmerman
Head Teacher