

29 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

On Saturday 27 November, the Prime Minister announced new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK. The Government have stated that the new measures will be introduced as a precaution to slow down the spread of the variant while they gather more information. In line with the Government updates, we will continue to keep this under review as the situation develops.

When the children returned in September, we reviewed the COVID safety measures in place and committed to keeping these under review as the national picture changed. Our priority is the safety of our school community therefore, we are providing updates to our safety protocols in light of the Government update.

This letter includes details regarding:

- Face coverings
- Contact tracing and isolation
- School measures

Face coverings

From Tuesday 30.11.21, face coverings will be worn by staff in all communal areas within the school, unless they are exempt. Any visitor to the school site, including parents who have an appointment to enter the building, will be expected to wear a face covering for the duration of their visit.

Parents and carers are strongly advised to wear face coverings when dropping off and picking up children to help minimise the spread of the virus in busy and crowded spaces.

Children are not required to wear face coverings; however, we want to stress the importance of being sensitive to individual circumstances. Parents/carers may choose to ask their child to wear a face covering and we expect members of our community to respect this individual decision.

Following national guidance, we do not ask that staff wear face coverings in classrooms.

Contact tracing and isolation

The current guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains in place, meaning that close contacts of anyone with a positive Covid result should take a PCR test, but do not need to isolate unless they are over 18 and unvaccinated. The exception is any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant, who will be asked to isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status or age.



Further precautionary measures

As further precautionary measures, we will be implementing the following changes to minimise spread of infection and protect our children and staff

- Revert to Teams assemblies.
- Parent/carer access to the school buildings will be limited and it is strongly advised that you call or message via MYEd before coming on to the premises.
- Limit visitors to site to essential visitors only

As the picture develops both locally and nationally, we will respond and therefore all Christmas related events are under review. Whilst we would hope to be in a position for all planned Christmas events to go ahead, the safety of all members of our school community during this time is of great importance to us. We will respond to further Government updates as they emerge and inform parents as soon as possible.

I appreciate these latest guidance updates may have caused some concern for some of you, and I thank you in advance for your ongoing support, understanding and cooperation as we continue to navigate this period. I hope that this update provides clarity on the current situation, and please be assured that we are continuing to do everything we can to protect the health and wellbeing of our children and wider community.

I would also encourage any parents/carers and/or children with any questions or concerns to contact us directly so that we can offer our support.

Kind Regards

Mrs M. Browning
Head of School

