



28th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, apologies for sending a message to you over the weekend. I had hoped that this would not be necessary again. However, this evening the guidance for schools has been changed following the announcement by the Prime Minister on Saturday regarding the new variant of COVID-19.

The following is contained in the update.

Face coverings

From tomorrow (Monday 29 November), we are strongly advising that face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and pupils or students in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt.

Pupils or students (in year 7 or above) should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt.

This means that in corridors, canteen areas and other crowded places, unless exempt, will be expected to wear a face covering.

As is currently the case any learners or staff wishing to wear face coverings in classrooms will be supported to do so.

Testing

All educational and childcare settings should continue to encourage staff and students to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests.

We appreciate all your support in carrying out the Lateral Flow Testing at home. This continues to identify a small number of cases and help keep the school community safe. If you need any additional tests, please do not hesitate to contact the school. You may also be aware, through the press, that schools have been asked to carry out on site lateral flow testing following the Christmas break. We will be in touch about this before school breaks for Christmas.

Contact tracing and isolation

The current guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains in place - which means that close contacts should take PCR tests but do not need to isolate unless they are over 18 and unvaccinated. The exception is for close contacts of suspected or confirmed Omicron cases, who will be asked to isolate for 10 days.

Our understanding at this time is that you will be contacted by Test and Trace if this is deemed necessary. If we receive any further information regarding this, we will let you know.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely

Lee Cummins
Headteacher