



29.11.21

Dear Parents,

## Change in Covid Guidance for Schools

As a consequence of the weekend's announcement relating to a new Covid variant, schools have this afternoon received a change in guidance. The changes would seem to be as a precaution whilst more information is gathered regarding this new Omicron variant.

### Face Coverings

Face coverings are now a recommendation for staff and visitors to the school. Our children do not need to wear a mask, but staff and volunteers will once again be wearing face masks in communal areas and at the start and end of the day. It is not yet mandatory for parents to wear face masks whilst on the playground, but if you wish to wear a mask, you are welcome to do so.

### Testing

All educational and childcare settings will continue to encourage staff to test weekly using the LFD testing devices. Parents of school aged children are still eligible to request home testing LFD kits. Children under 11 are not required to test.

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

### Contact Tracing and Isolation

Current guidance on contact tracing and isolation is modified in relation to the Omicron variant. This means that any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for ten days regardless of vaccination status or age. We believe the contact trace system will contact individuals directly and inform them of this need to isolate should it be apparent to the testing authorities, however we will continue to raise awareness with parents of any positive cases.

We will keep parents informed of any further changes in relation to our planned Christmas events or anything that we need to instigate as a school, and as always value your support to maintain a safe environment.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Pointon  
Headteacher

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