



Where Pupils Achieve and Excel
Headteacher: Mrs T Price BA (Hons) MA Ed

TP/JP

5 January 2022

Dear Parents /Carers,

Welcome back to Spring Term 2022. We hope you have all had a restful break and managed to celebrate Christmas with your families.

As you will now be aware guidance for schools has been updated in response to the Omicron variant which although appears to be milder for most it is still highly contagious and poses a risk for both pupils and staff. Your continued support and co-operation are required in order to minimise any further disruption to school and indeed, home life.

Our updated risk assessment is available for you to view on the website.

A few reminders of what you need to do and what we will be doing ourselves in the coming weeks.

- **Lateral flow tests** – these have gone extremely well this morning with the large majority of KS3 pupils testing. Pupils in Y7 and Y8 should now continue to test twice a week. Should families with children in Y5 and Y6 wish to test children then that is at your discretion. We do have tests available in school and so are more than happy to supply your household with packs as I know many are struggling to get them.
- **Masks** -Pupils in Y7 and Y8 are now required to wear masks in lessons as well as in communal areas. Pupils do not need to wear them for PE or when outdoors. This is due to be reviewed by the government on 26th January.
- **School Closures**- School and bubbles will remain open – closures will only occur if staffing becomes problematic or in the case of bubbles if we have high numbers of positive cases in a particular class. Closure will be very much a last resort.
- **Positive Tests**- Pupils who test positive will need to self-isolate for 10 days. However recent changes mean that pupils can do lateral flow tests on day 6 and again 24 hours later on day 7 – if both tests are negative then they can return on day 8. If your child continues to test positive then they should continue to isolate for the full 10 days. If you are unsure please contact the school office for further guidance.
- **Close contacts** - Pupils who have been vaccinated or are under 12, and are close contacts of positive cases, do not need to self-isolate – instead they should do lateral flow tests for 7 consecutive days and as long as they are negative then they can continue to attend school.
- **Remote Learning** - If your child is isolating but feels well enough we would expect them to access on line learning. At this point there is work available available on google classrooms for all subjects. These will not be live lessons unless there is a bubble closure. This will hopefully minimise their risk of falling behind.



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- **Safeguarding** – whilst your child is off you will receive a 'safe and well' check. This will ensure we can offer any further support you may need and to check everything is ok
- **Booster jabs** are to be offered to all 12-year olds. When this becomes available I would urge you to consider vaccinating your child. The uptake in the recent programme was above the national average and provides another tier of protection for the school and wider community

Finally, we would ask that you are patient when contacting the school. We are extremely busy at the moment and staff absences are higher than usual therefore it may take a little longer to resolve your query. Verbal abuse and rudeness will not be tolerated and if this happens the call will be ended.

We have made a phenomenal team in our approach to tackling this pandemic and as a result disruption has been kept to a minimum. It is vital that we continue to work together and hopefully by doing so we will get things back to normal sooner.

Should you require any further information or advice please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Kind regards

Mrs T Price
Headteacher