

3rd January 2022

Dear Parents,

I am writing to let you know what the school's approach will be if COVID-19 absences amongst staff become too high to continue to operate the school normally. **At present, the school continues to be open and you do not need to do anything differently in terms of arranging.**

If staffing absences occur as part of the latest wave of COVID-19, including the Omicron variant, we will first seek to cover all classes through supply staff or internal cover. We are determined to avoid disruption to your child's education as far as we can.

If we cannot secure the necessary cover, we will close the classes affected and you will be contacted as soon as possible. Any child in an affected class will need to stay at home for a specified period.

Appropriate work will be set for the class and we will communicate how this should be accessed and completed on the day of the closure. This will vary from class to class and will depend on the availability of teachers and others to work remotely.

We are committed to minimising the disruption to your child's education and will continue to deliver high quality teaching and learning throughout this period.

During the course of the next week, children will come home with a new home learning pack, which will include a pencil, whiteboard and pen, work book and new password to access Microsoft teams and the remote learning timetable. We are keen to ensure that no learning is lost. We will be able to provide laptops, to families who requested them, based on need.

I appreciate that any closure will be disappointing for pupils, and cause inconvenience for parents. However, the safety of everyone in school is our absolute priority and we will continue to do everything we can to manage the risks.

As COVID-19 cases rise in the community and nationally, it is important that we continue to follow public health advice.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, we ask that they do not come to school and take PCR test. Anyone with symptoms is eligible for PCR testing, even if a LFT result is negative, and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

Helping to stop the spread of Covid

Since there is continued concern around the 'Omicron' variant at the present time, we will continue to maintain our current approach in school to help stop the spread. We ask for your help in supporting us in keeping these routines in place. This approach includes:

- Operating separate zones for pupils in lessons and at break and lunch times
- Staff using face coverings when moving around the school site
- Washing or sanitising hands regularly
- Following classroom cleaning routines such as using the wipes provided and seating plans

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Please keep yourselves safe and healthy. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch in the usual way.

Yours sincerely



Louise Stanton

Principal