

Date: 4th January 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I do hope you have all managed to have a restful break and a happy new year to all.

As you may have heard on the news, the government is now recommending that students wear face masks in the classroom as well as communal areas. This will be reviewed at the end of January. If you could send students with a facemask to school and support us with this whilst the new variant is prevalent. If your child is exempt then please do not hesitate in contacting the school. We continue to update our risk assessment and follow all national measures and guidance to ensure we keep as many students and staff in school and learning.

We have tested all years groups using Lateral Flow Tests today and any students who have tested positive will now stay at home awaiting a PCR test. Staff have also tested.

In addition to the above, we are advising children and parents to undertake lateral flow tests twice weekly as a minimum. For information regarding access to lateral flow tests see:
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

Should the PCR (or any lateral flow testing) yield a positive result, we would ask that your child isolate and follow national “Stay at Home” guidance:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Please see below guidance for if your child/anyone in the household develops COVID-19 symptoms.

What to do if you/your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

For most people, especially children, COVID-19 will be a mild illness.

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

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

If anyone in the household develops any of these symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home and arrangements should be made for them to be tested.

This should be an NHS PCR test taken at a test site and **NOT** a rapid test taken at a community testing site (an LFT test). Anyone that attends one of our community testing sites with symptoms of COVID-19 will be redirected.

Household members of the symptomatic individual who are over 18 years and 6 months and **not fully vaccinated**, must also stay at home whilst awaiting the PCR result - they should not go to work, school or public areas, even for exercise.

Testing can be arranged by ringing 119 or booking online: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

When the result of the test is known further advice will be available.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further information

Further information is available at nhs.uk/coronavirus

We look forward to welcoming all our students back to school again tomorrow.

Yours sincerely

Miss Rock

Headteacher



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