

1<sup>st</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you on some of the adjustments to procedures in responding to cases of Covid-19 linked to school.

Following the latest local authority advice, we will only be notifying you of cases linked to the school if there has been an outbreak of Covid-19 within school or if there is a case of Covid-19 linked to the school that has been confirmed as the Omicron variant.

Outbreaks in School (10% or 5 individuals within a group test positive within 10 days)

Unlike most other schools, we have avoided an outbreak in school so far by tracking attendance closely, good ventilation, regular hand-sanitising and enhanced cleaning throughout the school day. It is, however, worth noting that the chance of an outbreak in school has been increasing every week since September as Covid-19 cases amongst school-aged children has continued to rise.

In the event of an outbreak, we would be supported by the local authority to put in a plan to reduce the spread. Amongst other measures, we would ask that parents and carers of children in the class to book a PCR test for their children and we would limit the class' contact with the rest of school by adjusting playtimes and having the children eat in their classrooms. We have arrangements in place for hot dinners to be delivered to classrooms in take-away boxes. Unless children have symptoms, they would be able to continue to attend school whilst awaiting the results of a PCR and daily LFD testing would be encouraged.

Confirmed case of the Omicron variant

The advice on this is evolving, but currently, close contacts of a case would be asked to isolate. This could mean a class moving to remote learning as the current advice is that you must self-isolate for 10 days, regardless of your age or vaccination status if you are a contact of someone who may have the Omicron variant.

Children coming into school when there is a member of the household with Covid-19

The current rules are that children are able to continue to attend school, even when there is Covid-19 in the household, if they have no Covid-19 symptoms and have a negative PCR test. Many parents and carers have questioned this and have asked what else they can do. We are thankful to the parents and carers who have limited the risk by ensuring everyone in the household has a PCR test, use LFD testing to monitor those who tested negative and look out for any signs of children becoming unwell.

Keeping our school stay safe and open for learning

We have been asked to continue to encourage adults with links to the school to get a vaccination and a booster when they are eligible. There is strong evidence that adults who are double vaccinated are still getting Covid-19 and are becoming very poorly. This is putting significant pressure on families with younger children.

Yours

Ben Tull  
Headteacher