



4th January 2022

Dear Parents,

I would like to begin by wishing all a Happy New Year.

Once again, we find ourselves in very difficult times with the pandemic reaching new heights but we remain optimistic that better times are around the corner! Unfortunately, our school was significantly affected by the Omicron variant of Covid over the Christmas break with approximately half our staff team testing positive. The likelihood is, therefore, that over the next few weeks we will be faced with a high level of staff absence.

To mitigate this risk, we will be implementing Covid transmission control measures similar to those in place this time last year. We will be maintaining these measures until 26th January or subsequent change in Government advice or a significant change in circumstance. I am hopeful that these measures will be effective; however, there is a likelihood that for a period at least we will have to switch to some form of remote learning.

To ensure safety of the entirety of our school community, I am asking all staff and students to be vigilant in taking the widest view possible of Omicron Covid symptoms. For example, if your child – or a member of staff - presents with a headache, a “scratchy” throat, sweating, any mild cold symptoms, any form of stomach complaint, or any flare up of a pre-existing condition to stay at home until there is more certainty this symptomatic presentation is not related to Covid. Should these symptoms present for longer than 24 hours I would strongly encourage undertaking a PCR test. All staff will be undertaking daily Lateral Flow testing during this period.

As part of our measures to reduce the likelihood of the risk of Covid transmission, the school will once again be very well ventilated and, where possible, learning activities will take place outside. Therefore, it is very important that your child is dressed for cold weather and that you supply extra items of clothing in addition to enable us to layer them up.

We will continue to update you as things change. In the meantime, I appreciate your cooperation and support during these uncertain times. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions of concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Steven Sneesby
Headteacher