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30 November, 2021

Dear parents and carers

### Updated COVID 19 Guidance

As we are all aware, the new variant of COVID 19 is on the rise and to help support preventing the spread, we have been provided with some new guidance for schools.

#### Bubbles

Unless we have a rise in cases in a class or across the school, children will not need to be in bubbles. Currently, our Key Stage One and Key Stage Two children have very minimal contact anyway so this will remain in place. Should we need to put bubbles back in place, we will inform you.

There is a school contingency plan in place should we have a number of cases either within a class or the whole school.

#### Positive Cases

If we have any positive cases (confirmed by a PCR test), we will inform the parents and carers of that class but there is no need for specific children or adults to isolate unless they are advised to do so by NHS Track and Trace. School will not be involved in informing parents of isolation unless it is an exceptional case.

If children receive a positive on a LFD test then a PCR test must be taken for school to accept this as a confirmed case. Siblings in the same household are still able to attend school unless advised differently by the Track and Trace service.

#### Face coverings

Unless exempt all staff in school will wear masks in the communal areas of school. Masks do not need to be worn outside.

#### Control measures

In school, we follow a regularly updated COVID 19 Risk Assessment. Alongside other measure, we will continue to:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone – hand and respiratory hygiene and the use of PPE
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated – windows in school are open to keep classrooms well ventilated.  
We would suggest that children wear appropriate clothes and bring an extra jumper on colder days.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID 19.

#### Visitors into school

Visitors into school are being limited. We ask that parents only attend the school office (wearing a mask) if absolutely necessary. Otherwise, please contact the school office via e-mail or telephone. With the current guidance, we can have a very limited number of parents and carers in school for the school nativity. A letter will be sent out this week with links to allow people to sign up. Should we have a rise in cases in school this may need to change.

We have taken the decision, following the new guidance that parents will not be able to attend the school Carol Service. We are hoping to arrange something different to involve parents and we will be in touch about this next week.

Pupil support and well-being

Some pupils may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as anxiety, stress or low mood. You can access useful links and sources of support : <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mental-health-and-wellbeing-support-in-schools-and-colleges>

As always, thank you for your continued support in these difficult and challenging circumstances.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Oxtoby'.

Alison Oxtoby  
Head Teacher