

4th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy New Year. I hope that you have enjoyed the festive break and more importantly, that you and your family stayed well and safe.

Many of you will have read the Government's response and latest guidance to the emerging Omicron variant. Although, many of the changes in schools will affect the older pupils (11-16), such as reintroduction of masks and carrying out regular lateral flow device (LFD) tests, there are some key reminders and points for our primary pupils and parents.

- In primary schools, the government recommends that face coverings should be worn by staff, adults, and those aged over 11 (including visitors) when moving around in corridors and communal areas. Health advice continues to be that children in primary schools should not be asked to wear face coverings and they can wear them if they choose to.
- We would encourage all parents to wear face masks when on school site, this includes dropping off and collecting pupils.
- All parents to minimise the time spent on site at the start or end of a school day. Congregating in groups and engaging in long discussions with other parents should be avoided on site.
- All pupils to continue to sanitise their hands when entering the site.
- All primary assemblies will revert back to online for at least Spring 1.

Face-to-face provision, workforce and operational matters

You will have seen and heard in the national news that up to 25% of public sector workers could be affected by COVID-19 absence including the school sector workforce. You will also be aware that last term in primary, we managed to avoid sending classes home – this did add additional strain and pressure on the staff in school but staff worked above and beyond to minimise disruption to pupil learning. With the challenges of staff absences and a shortage of supply staff we may find ourselves in a situation where this term some of our pupils may have to access remote learning. This will be a very last resort and a short term measure but it is important that you have your child's login details and relevant remote learning information.

We may have to adopt a flexible approach to delivery and learning in relation to the school workforce and the operational challenges that Covid-related absence may cause. This could involve utilising our available teaching and non-teaching workforce to maximise on-site education for as many pupils as possible while allowing us to flexibly deliver provision either on-site or remotely to some pupils. We may have to combine classes.

We are hoping that there will be minimum disruption to schools but as always need to be prepared, flexible and adapt to situations in order to minimise disruption to pupil learning.

Changes to the self-isolation period

Since Wednesday 22nd December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to

children under five, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and the person does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 8.

End of Year Statutory Assessments in May and June 2022

Preparation for statutory assessments in Year 2 & 6 in May/June 2022 continues and pupils should continue to work hard to be ready for these. To be successful, pupils must do all they can to work hard in lessons, to attend school if well and to carry out home learning and study. We have provided a large number of resources including revision guides, workbooks, practice materials, knowledge organisers and other resources to support. Booster sessions and additional tutoring will further support to ensure all of our pupils achieve their potential.

Finally, I look forward to welcoming all of our pupils back to school on Wednesday 5th January 2022 at 8:25am as the gates open. All pupils are expected to be wearing their full uniform and to be equipped with their school bag, pupil planner and PE kit – ready to fully embrace their learning.

Yours sincerely,

S. Dosanjh

Mrs Dosanjh
Principal
Waverley School – Primary