

04 January 2022

Dear parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy new year.

Over the Christmas break you will be aware that the number of Covid cases across the country has increased markedly. This national picture is currently mirrored with Southampton.

However, as a primary school we have received no additional guidance concerning measures with regard to opening. Therefore, we will be opening as normal on Wednesday 5 January 2022.

As a precaution, to try to limit the spread of Covid 19, we have decided to re-introduce year group bubbles when the children are inside and phase bubbles for when they are outside. We will also be adding additional entry points for year 3 and 4 in the mornings:

- Year 3 will enter and leave by the door near the girls' toilets
- Year 4 will enter and leave by the door near the boys' toilets

If the number of cases within the setting do increase sharply upon our return to school, then we will reintroduce measures including staggered starts, lunch and breaktimes to reduce the spread if required.

As you will have probably seen in the news, staffing has been and will continue to be an issue if cases with schools rise. Prior to Christmas, we had to make the difficult decision to close on the last day of term as we could not effectively staff the setting. We may find ourselves in a situation that we may be forced to close classes or year groups if we cannot staff them but will only do this as a last resort. If this is the case (and for individual children who are absent due to a Covid 19), we will provide remote learning whilst the children are unable to come to school.

To help us as much as possible, could I please ask again that, if you have access to them, you consider testing your children with a lateral flow test (LFD) prior to them returning to school.

Could I also ask that adults return to wearing face coverings when dropping off their children to school.

Below is some of the latest guidance concerning isolation from the DFE, just so that you are aware.

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 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ingrid Dowse', written in a cursive style.

Ingrid Dowse
Head of School