

Tuesday 30th November

Dear Parent / Carer,

Response to the new COVID Variant Omicron

As you will be aware over the weekend, the government announced new face covering control measures which apply to all adults in all education and childcare settings. These have been implemented from **Monday 29 November** and will be reviewed in 3 weeks. We have done so well as a school community to limit the impact of COVID and I really want to continue this in the run up to Christmas. Many schools have significant numbers of staff absent due to COVID and these absences really impact on a child's education so I want to do everything I can to keep staff healthy.

- All **adults in school will be wearing face masks** when moving around school and in communal areas. If you have an appointment, please bring a mask with you and do a lateral flow test prior to attending school.
- NHS Test and Trace are still doing all close-contact tracing, and only notifying people if they are a confirmed close contact. For those of you who have already tested positive or have symptoms, thank you for working with us and following the guidance. It is much appreciated. When the Omicron variant is not a factor, existing rules on self-isolation continue to apply.
- However, anyone who is a close contact of a confirmed or **Suspected** Omicron variant case and contacted by NHS Test and Trace are required to self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test, **irrespective of age or vaccine status**.

School Events

Unfortunately, I have also taken the difficult decision to **cancel the live indoor performances** of our school nativity and Christingle services. I know many of you will be disappointed and I am sorry that once again we are having to make these difficult decisions however, I do not want to risk children, parents/carers or staff having their Christmas ruined by catching COVID. Having a group of parents/carers sat in the hall (even socially distanced) feels a risk that is too great with the uncertainty with the new variant.

We will film the nativity and make this available for parents/carers and their families to watch. The live **outdoor KS2 Carol concerts will go ahead as planned** and I would ask parents to wear a mask to attend these. We also have a number of Christmas events such as parties and Christmas dinner for children that will continue as planned. As always Beck staff will work hard to make Christmas a special time in school for children.



Head of School
Mrs J Coats
Deputy Head of School
Mrs C Chappell
School Business Manager
Mrs K Hyde
Chair of Governors
Mrs Y Simpson

Message from Sheffield Director of Public Health – Greg Fell

There is an exceptionally difficult winter ahead. We are now starting to see the impact of other winter illnesses, the flu season is approaching and we continue to have high cases of COVID-19. GPs, ambulances and A&E departments are seeing record numbers of patients. That matters as routine care may be delayed or put off and even emergency care services will become more pressured with longer waiting.

This means that we have to continue to do all that we can to reduce risk and limit the pressures on our health care services. Unfortunately, some things are not completely back to 'normal' and I realise that many of you will be disappointed as we approach Christmas that settings may not always be able to put in place some of the things that you are familiar with happening around this time of year. Settings are having to consider risks to staff, pupils and parents/carers. No one wants to be unwell with COVID, especially over Christmas or risk transmission to older adults and relatives. We know that the DELTA variant likes warm, crowded places where there is close contact. We have to balance things carefully. The pandemic is far from over and we need to remain cautious. Nobody wants to see a return of restrictions so it's important we do all we can to prevent this. Face to face teaching and learning for our children and young people is a priority so headteachers are having to carefully consider any additional risk that could impact on this.

I have asked settings to continue to reduce the numbers of events and meetings involving large numbers of pupils, parents/carers and staff. I understand that this will be disappointing for some, however it is important to help reduce transmission of COVID-19 by some events not going ahead or events being undertaken in a different way.

There are also some simple things we can all do to help take care of our family and friends this winter:

- *Get vaccinated against COVID*

This is the single most effective thing you can do to protect yourself and others. It's especially important for pregnant women to have the vaccinations. If you haven't yet had dose one and two it is never too late and please reconsider.

Many clinics across Sheffield <http://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination> are offering the vaccination and there is no need to book and no need to be registered with a GP.

- *Get a flu jab*

We are trying to avoid co-infection with flu and COVID as there are much worse outcomes if people become acutely unwell with both. So please have a flu jab.



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- Remember the basic advice

Face Coverings really help and have the added benefit of reducing transmission of other respiratory viruses. Keep your distance and focus on better ventilation in indoor spaces. Work from home if you can and reduce your contacts. If going to high risk settings or visiting elderly relatives take an LFD beforehand. If you have symptoms and you suspect COVID, arrange a PCR test at [Get tested for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#) or by calling 119.

- Be patient with the NHS

If you are finding it difficult to access care, the NHS are working under incredible pressure. Help medical staff prioritise patients with the most urgent needs by first seeking advice from a local pharmacy or 111. Only call 999 or attend A&E in an emergency.

I would like to thank you all for your support and understanding. If you have any questions, please just get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs J Coats
Head of School



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Silver Award
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