



# Christ Church Primary School



*Together we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us*

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

## COVID19 Update Information

Dear Parents and Carers,

Just to keep you updated with the current situation and school's plans and protective measures. You will know that the Government increased measures from this Tuesday following increased positive cases nationally and the emergence of the Omicron variant.

At Christ Church we had already increased our measures upon returning after half term so it has not required us to make considerable changes as we were already doing in excess of recommendations. I have outlined below how we are managing the current situation, so you know what our measures are in school and our plans for the next two weeks:

- Staff are wearing face coverings in communal spaces or when speaking with others and will continue to do so
- Staff are not wearing masks in classrooms, but will put them on and gloves if they need to do first aid or any close contact work with children
- Any adult admitted onto site is expected to wear a face covering unless exempt
- Meetings or opportunities for parents to be part of their child's learning will continue wherever possible outdoors or if not in large spaces only. This has been reduced to smaller groups and will always be distanced in a well ventilated space and risk assessed specifically for the activity
- Children have been working in class groups indoors since half term and this will continue; where a support group is needed to include children from across a particular year they are sat in their classes and distanced from the other class, chairs and tables are wiped down between use if groups change
- All classrooms are ventilated with open windows and doors and where CO2 meters show that air has not circulated the rooms are emptied for 10 – 15 minutes to allow a change of air
- When outside the year groups is together but does not mix with wider year groups; playtimes continue to be arranged in year groups only
- Assemblies have been staggered so that children can still come together as part of our faith community, but only in their year groups in the hall and classes are separated
- At lunchtimes children sit with their class according to a seating plan so we reduce mixing, year group lunches continue to be staggered
- We have chosen to notify families if we have a positive case in a particular class so that they can be vigilant and support their home circumstances. We do not identify who the positive case is for privacy reasons.
- Children continue to wash their hands regularly throughout the day and resources that need to be shared are cleaned between use
- Clubs have been separated to avoid mixing across year groups and registers are all kept so we know contacts
- Singing is not done in classrooms, but can be done in the hall as one class with good ventilation and distancing or outdoors as a year group with classes distanced
- Remote education is available for those children who are isolating
- Staff meetings and training opportunities continue either distanced or online
- Staff test twice weekly using a lateral flow device
- If a child is at all unwell we are asking families to access PCR testing and remain off school until the result is returned as a supportive measure to prevent transmission through the community
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## **New Advice Regarding Omicron variant**

All individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, will be contacted directly and required to self-isolate immediately and asked to book a PCR test. They will be informed by the local health protection team or NHS Test and Trace and provided details about self-isolation. Schools will be advised by their local Incident Management Team of the Omicron variant of COVID-19. We have taken the decision that should this occur, we will inform our parents so that we are being transparent and you can take measures at home that you feel are appropriate.

## **Arrangements for Christmas Activities**

We have a number of activities and events planned that we will endeavour to continue with as long as it is safe to do so.

## **Church services and nativities**

We have separated year groups to lead one service each in the church. The children are in separate classes and just their year group. We are inviting one adult per household to attend and will send a film for the wider family to share at home. Adults **MUST** wear a face covering and leave the church promptly after the service so that it can be cleaned and fogged. Children will be spread out in their classes as much as possible and the open space and ventilation in the church will benefit airflow. Thank-you so much to Rev.Cousins for giving us increased time in church to manage this safely and host multiple services!

## **Parent activities**

We have planned parent activities outdoors such as story time in the forest school, Christmas model village etc. Individual year groups will send families details. One adult per household will be invited and masks must be worn. We have reduced these session numbers and will repeat them so that groups are smaller.

## **Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day – 10<sup>th</sup> December**

This will continue with similar arrangements for existing lunches in places; children with their classes only indoors and year group outdoors. All adults will wear face coverings.

## **Advent Prayer Trail**

This will continue in classes rather than children moving around the school and mixing more widely

## **Christmas Parties**

School will host Christmas parties in classes so children can share the joy of Christmas

I hope this gives families reassurance of our risk assessment. As a church school, it is important for us to prepare and celebrate together and we want children to enjoy what they have previously missed. However, I am risk assessing daily, watching local case numbers and school reported cases constantly; if there is a spike in local cases or if we have an outbreak in school, I will need to review and change these plans for the safety of children, families and staff. Please bear with us and continue to support our endeavours as you have for the past two years; we are only as strong and as safe as you make us, so every family that follows our protective measures, wears a mask and gets their child tested if unwell, will help us to all have a very Merry Christmas.

Thank-you

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