



# Christ Church Primary School



Together we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## COVID19 Update Information for Return to School

Dear Parents and Carers,

We all hope you have had a lovely Christmas; we realise from the school office emails that a number of families faced disruption due to family members testing positive for COVID19 and having to isolate over the holidays. We do hope no one has been too poorly and thank families for informing us of their circumstances so that we may plan for school opening.

You will have no doubt seen in the media that the Government updated its' advice to schools over the weekend and we have reviewed our Risk Assessments accordingly. At Christ Church we had already increased our measures last half term so it has not required us to make considerable changes as we were already doing in excess of recommendations. There has been no further review of the Government's Plan during this evening's announcement by the Prime Minister, so 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 few 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 and gloves / aprons on 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 last 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; 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 with some children eating in their classrooms, some in the hall and some in the canteen
- 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

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Headteacher: Mrs A Donelan



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- 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

## **New Advice Regarding Omicron variant**

Changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for Covid-19; since Wednesday 22 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. Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 for 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. If both tests are negative and your child does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation period after the second negative test result and return to school from day 8.

If lateral flow tests are unavailable or families decide not to test, pupils must complete the 10 days isolation and access remote learning.

Those children who are identified as a close contact of someone with COVID19 should take an LFD test every day for seven days and may continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time. If families are struggling to access school or have concerns about attending school when other household members have tested positive pupils may access remote learning.

Please continue to email the school office to advise us of positive cases within your household and we will email or telephone you with advice specific to your circumstances.

## **Staff Absence Due to COVID19**

We currently have a number of staff who are isolating and following Public Health guidance; we have made cover arrangements, but ask that families bear with us as we manage high levels of staff absence and positive cases within our community.

If your child appears unwell, please do not send them into school until you have tested them. We want to keep all classes operating face to face teaching and need families to work with us to avoid transmission so we can maintain staffing levels and reduce transmission between pupils wherever possible.

I hope this gives families reassurance of our risk assessment. The Government are due to review the Plan B measures on 26<sup>th</sup> January and we will do the same unless our circumstances change and warrant an earlier review.

The full school Risk Assessment is available on the school website for families to access for information.

Best wishes for a positive and healthy 2022,

Mrs Amanda Donelan

Headteacher