

4th January 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A very Happy New Year to you all and I hope you were able to enjoy a restful break. Our ambition, in line with the government, is for all pupils to have the least disruption possible despite the rising number of cases caused by the Omicron COVID variant.

You will be aware that on Sunday 2nd January 2022, new operational guidance was released for schools. [What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

The key change being that pupils will be expected to wear masks in classrooms. It is therefore important that all pupils (unless exempt) come prepared to school with a mask. This will take effect immediately and will be reviewed on 26th January. Needless to say, that when pupils arrive for testing tomorrow (5th January) face masks will also be mandatory in the testing centre. By supporting your family to follow this guidance you will be playing your part to minimise disruption to education for all our pupils.

We also include the new guidance to isolation which has changed from 10 to 7 days providing two consecutive negative lateral flow tests are seen on day 6 and 7. [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Also, pupils who have had Covid in the last 90 days can have a test in school tomorrow. If you need to provide us with updated consent information, please contact us **by 4 pm today** via data@montsaye.northants.sch.uk. Twice weekly testing is also highly recommended.

How our schools are helping

- All school staff are being encouraged to test regularly to ensure that any asymptomatic cases are quickly picked up on and that any symptoms are checked up on.
- We are aware that even though government guidance on symptoms has not changed the reality is that people are presenting with cold and flu like symptoms who are subsequently testing positive, our school staff are testing to check such symptoms.
- Secondary pupils will be testing at school during the next few of days to ensure any cases are picked up on thereby reducing the chance of spreading further.

How you can help

We would kindly ask that you support us to keep our schools running as smoothly as possible by following the government guidance:

- All adults and children should stay at home and self-isolate immediately if they develop symptoms of COVID-19, remembering those symptoms are now more varied. You should do this even if you have received one or more doses of COVID-19 vaccine. Book a PCR test and isolate until you have received the results.
- If you have a positive test result but do not have symptoms stay at home and self-isolate as soon as you receive the results.
- If you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 you are at significantly higher risk of becoming infected yourself.

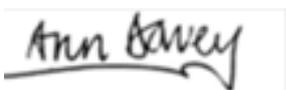
- **Children aged 5 years and over and live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, and are not legally required to self-isolate, are strongly advised to:**
 - ✓ **take an LFD test every day for 7 days, or until 10 days after the household member who has COVID-19 started their self-isolation period if this is earlier**
 - ✓ **take this daily LFD test before you leave your home for the first time each day**
 - ✓ If you take an LFD test and the result is positive, you should immediately self-isolate to prevent you from passing the infection on to other people and arrange to take a PCR test

We will be sending detailed information out later in the week explaining the latest government guidance on the length of time needed to isolate following a positive PCR result.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Gabbi
Principal



Mrs Davey
CEO of Pathfinder Trust Schools