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Tuesday 4th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you and your family enjoyed a happy and peaceful Christmas break. As 2022 begins, we are looking forward to welcoming everybody back to school on Wednesday 5th January.

As you may be aware, increased rates of community Covid transmission means that we do anticipate that we will see increased rates of pupil and staff absence, at least in the immediate and short term. We therefore ask for your understanding and co-operation if we need to make changes to school routines at short notice. **Please ensure that school has your contact details, especially if you have changed them over the holidays.**

In order to protect the school and the wider community we all need to be vigilant and take increased measures to protect ourselves and others. **If your child has tested positive during the holidays or is unable to attend school due to isolating, please contact school so that we can update our records and arrange any remote learning**

We have thoroughly reviewed our risk assessments and procedures in school in light of updated guidance from the DfE, Doncaster Local Authority, Doncaster Public Health and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA who have replaced Public Health England). As always, we will be working hard to make school as safe as possible for all of the children and adults.

We will of course need your cooperation to achieve this and request that you take the following measures:

- Please wear a face mask when entering on the school site and leave the school site as soon as possible once children have been dropped off or picked up. We would rather advise this than reintroduce staggered starts, but will keep the situation under review.
- Please ensure that only one adult accompanies children onto the school site at the beginning/end of the school day to limit congestion.
- Please keep your child at home and arrange a PCR test if they have any of the following symptoms:
 - new or continuous cough
 - high temperature
 - loss of sense of taste/smell
- Please consider arranging a PCR test, if your child displays any general illness symptoms; it is becoming increasingly common for those testing positive to report a sore throat, stomach upset or runny nose/sneezing – symptoms of a cold. PCR test are usually returned in 24-36 hours and so can be very swift at ruling out Covid-19 infection.
- No volunteers or non-essential visitors will be allowed on the school site

If we feel that your child is ill whilst at school, we will contact you and ask you to take them home. It is now more important than ever that we try to isolate those with Covid-19 as soon as possible, as the transmission rate of the

Omicron variant is far greater than earlier variants. A separate letter outlining the most recent guidance on isolation is attached to the same email as this letter.

This is not the news that any of us wanted to share as we begin 2022. However, we will always make the most of the opportunities available to pupils in school, despite facing set-backs. By working together, we can limit the length of time that restrictions are in place and keep infection rates in our community as low as possible.

Kind regards

Miss Diane Risley and Mrs Natalie Walker

