



Friars Primary Foundation School
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Wednesday 8th December 2021

Dear parents and carers,

COVID update:

This letter is an update of the one we sent out to all parents last Wednesday. We now have confirmed cases of COVID in the school amongst staff and children. We have already written to the classes that have been affected. Following advice from Southwark Public Health we are able to keep all classes open, however there are some restrictions that we have to put in place (see below). Thank you to all the parents who have shown concern and understanding about our current situation.

Monitoring Symptoms

We recognise that the weather is getting colder and children will understandably pick up illnesses including cold-like symptoms. However, can we please request that you continue to monitor the children's symptoms carefully and, if and where they have any coronavirus symptoms (a new or persistent cough, loss of taste or smell and / or a high temperature), it is important that the child does not come into school. The advice from Public Health is, if you are in any doubt, get your selves and your child(ren) tested with a PCR as soon as possible.

Lateral Flow Testing

We also know that children who have tested positive for coronavirus have experienced either no symptoms or different symptoms to those outlined above. The advice from Public Health is if you are able, please test your family twice weekly with lateral flows. This can support early identification and break chains of transmission. These tests can be ordered and collected from all local pharmacies or ordered on-line. If you wish for any advice or support please speak to a member of staff.

Face coverings

Whilst there is no expectation that primary aged children need to wear face masks, you will have noticed that adults around the school are now wearing face masks in communal areas and when children are dropped off and collected in the playground. We strictly ask that if parents do need to come into the building that they also wear face masks unless exempt. Please also observe the one in one out rule if coming into the reception area.

Headteacher: Justin Burt

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Self-isolation

Currently, the national guidance is that if you are under 18 or a fully vaccinated adult and you have come into contact with a positive case there is no requirement for you to self-isolate. If, however you come into contact with a confirmed case with the Omicron variant, you must self-isolate for 10 days regardless of age or vaccination status. As of today, we have had no notification of any of the cases being the Omicron variant.

School Action

We want to ensure that we take active steps to mitigate against any further spread of the infection. We continue to promote good hand and respiratory hygiene for everyone in the school. We are also maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes. Also, we are keeping spaces as well ventilated as possible whilst bearing in mind the need for children and staff to be able to work at comfortable temperatures.

Children's activity to the end of term:

Public health's advice is that any planned activity within school which does not involve outside visitors can carry on. Therefore, Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day will still happen.

Sadly, though there are some things that will not happen and they are:

- Y6 swimming on Friday. Although there is very little risk, we have decided to cancel it as a precautionary measure.
- Extra-curricular clubs (a text was sent out yesterday)
- Music, PE and Dance lessons, as they are taught by visiting teachers who work in different settings
- Year 4 singing at Borough Market. We will record them instead and put it on Google classroom.
- Christmas productions in front of a live audience. The performances will be recorded and they will be put on Google classroom next week.

Yours sincerely,

J. Burtt

Headteacher: Justin Burtt

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