



Friars Primary Foundation School
Webber Street London SE1 0RF
T: 020 7207 1807
E: office@friars.southwark.sch.uk
W: www.friarsprimaryschool.com
Twitter: @FriarsSE1

Wednesday 1st December 2021

Dear parents and carers,

You will all be aware of the increased measures to protect each other as a result of the new Omicron variant of COVID and we are writing to let you know our response. It is important we take proactive steps to reduce the spread of transmission and support keeping our community as safe as possible. As has been the case throughout the pandemic, it is a collective effort and we are thankful for your continued co-operation throughout this difficult period.

Monitor 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. If they do have any of those symptoms, we recommend the child takes a PCR test straight away.

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. Therefore, a great way to act proactively is to engage with Lateral Flow Testing within the family. 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 ask that if parents do need to come into the building that they also wear face masks unless exempt.

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.

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.

Christmas productions

As you will know we have scheduled 4 separate Christmas productions on Tuesday 14th (EYFS at 9:30 and Y5/6 at 2:15) and Wednesday 15th (Y1/2 at 9:30 and Y3/4 at 2:15) December. Depending on how the national picture changes over the next week and whether we see positive cases amongst children and/or staff within school we will have several options to go for. They are:

1. Continue with the productions with the original plan of allowing families in unrestricted numbers to attend with the condition that all adults wear face masks.
2. Continue with the productions but limit the amount of adults watching to two per child with the condition that all adults wear face masks.
3. Record the productions and put them on Google classroom with no parents/families in attendance.
4. Cancel the productions entirely to prevent any further spread of infection.

We will let you know our final decision by Friday 10th December at the latest.

Yours sincerely,

J. Burt

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