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Monday 3rd January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to you all.

I know that a good number of our families had their Christmas impacted by COVID (either directly or indirectly) but I hope that you still managed to enjoy the Christmas period in some fashion.

We're looking forward to welcoming the children back tomorrow but I wanted to get in touch with you all ahead of this to address some of the changes in school in response to the new government guidance that was published before Christmas and updated yesterday.

All of these details can be found on the [COVID-19 Protocols](#) section of our school website but, for ease of reference, I have included them all here.

Beginning and end of the day

As mentioned before Christmas, we are reverting back to our 'normal' gates times (i.e. what they were pre-pandemic) and this means that the morning gate will be open between 8.40am and 8.50am and the afternoon gate will open from 3.10pm for Year R parents (to give them a head-start!) and 3.15pm for everyone else until 3.25pm.

Self-Isolation

Children who live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 do not need to self-isolate but should undertake daily LFD testing.

The self-isolation advice for people with coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed. It is now possible to end self-isolation after 7 days, following 2 negative LFD tests taken 24 hours apart. The first LFD test should not be taken before the sixth day. Please note that the DfE guidance for schools is very specific that this is after 7 days, i.e. child or adult returns on day 8, e.g. *a child tests positive or has symptoms on the 5th January (this is day 0), the earliest that they can return to school would be 13th January (day 8) following two negative LFT tests on day 6 and day 7 and providing that they no longer have a high temperature.*

Testing

There is no requirement for primary-aged pupils to undergo regular testing but I would ask parents to consider administering an LFD test on their children before returning to school.



It would certainly be true to say that whilst the number of cases that we're seeing both in the school and in the wider community are increasing, the impact on the vast majority appears to be less severe. The greatest risk that faces the school is around staffing and schools have been asked to plan for staff absences of up to 25%.

As has always been the case over the past (almost) two years, our best defence is vigilance. We need to continue to work together as a school and as a wider community to ensure that the school remains open for all children and I know that I can count on your support.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Tibbles". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

James Tibbles

Creativity, Excellence, Resilience

Compassion, Trust, Generosity, Forgiveness, Service