



Kirkburton Middle School

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Enjoying, Achieving, Succeeding Together

3rd January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your family are well and that you have had an enjoyable Christmas period. Can I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year. This time last year, I wrote to you outlining the arrangements for the partial closure of our school. Thankfully twelve months on the picture is more positive however it is very clear we may still be facing another period of disruption in school due to COVID-19. At KMS we will be doing everything possible to keep all children safe and in school and we ask for your full support to help us achieve this.

Return to school

Parents are reminded that the start to the new term will be staggered in order to provide an on-site test for pupils in Year 7 and 8 on their return.

- Tuesday 4th January – INSET Day
- Wednesday 5th January – Year 6 and Year 8 pupils return
- Thursday 6th January – Year 7 pupils return

Testing is an important step in ensuring we can all return to school safely. Even if your child has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they can take a LFD test in school if they have completed the self-isolation period and you have completed the testing consent form sent out before Christmas. Please could we also ask that all pupils, including those who have consent to be tested in school, complete a lateral flow test the evening before returning to school.

Updated Government Guidance

I am sure you will have seen in the press that the COVID-19 guidance for schools was updated yesterday (please see below for the relevant links). **The new guidance is to ensure that schools can remain open and that pupils can continue to receive face-to-face education in light of the rapid spread of the Omicron variant.**

Asymptomatic testing

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. Pupils in Year 7 and 8 should continue to test twice weekly at home. School will continue to supply test kits but we ask for your patience should we experience any supply issues.



Face coverings

The updated guidance recommends, 'in schools where pupils in year 7 and above are educated', **face coverings should one again be worn in classrooms** as well as in communal areas. As our school operates like a secondary school **we ask that all pupils, unless exempt, wear a face mask indoors in line with the guidance**. This advice is short term only and will be reviewed by the government on Wednesday 26th January when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire.

We ask all pupils wear a mask style covering rather than a bandana or 'snood' style covering as these often fall off the nose in class.

We recognise the challenges this decision brings and that people have mixed views on the wearing of face masks in classrooms however we ask for your full support with this in order to keep everyone in school as safe and healthy as possible. Please be aware that when teaching from the front of the class (2m away from pupils) some teachers may not wear a mask. All staff will wear face masks when working closely with pupils however.

Ventilation

Teachers will continue to ensure classrooms are well ventilated, whilst maintaining a comfortable teaching environment. Please encouraging your child to wear an extra layer under their school uniform as classrooms may be a little cooler.

Self-isolation for individuals who test positive

The 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive test result for COVID-19 has now been reduced to 7. Individuals may now take lateral flow tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both these test results are negative, and your child does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return school from day 8.

Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

Pupils who are identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take a LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend school, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time. Close contacts in school will continue to be identified by NHS Test and Trace.

Absence reporting

Please continue to report all absences on a daily basis. If your child is absent due to COVID-19, this daily contact will allow us to check whether or not your child is well enough to attend live lessons that day. Please be aware that we have new staff working within our office and we ask for your patience whilst they

settle in to their new roles. There may also be times where our office team is working at a reduced capacity.

Remote Teaching and Learning

Pupils who are required to self-isolate and who remain well will be invited to join live lessons in line with their normal timetable. Where live lessons are not appropriate e.g. some practical lessons or if a teacher absent, work will be set via Teams for your child to complete. If pupils do not have a device or the necessary equipment, we will endeavour to supply this as soon as possible. Parents are reminded that guidance states remote learning is only open to pupils who are unable to attend school due to COVID-19.

Equipment

Please could I remind you that pupils need to bring their own equipment to school and it is safer if this is not shared with other pupils. If pupils need to replace stationary items we will be running the school shop where equipment can be purchased at cost price via Parent Pay: please place an order and we will deliver to your child. Mobile phones can be brought to school; **your child must place them in the class box on arrival** and they can be collected at the end of the day. Where we become aware that pupils are not handing their phones in, these will be confiscated and sanctions applied in line with our behaviour policy.

And finally...

We recognise this isn't the ideal start to a new term however we are all looking forward to seeing the children return to school and we will do everything we can to ensure your child feels welcome and enjoys their learning back in the classroom. Can I thank you for your continued support, especially with these new guidelines which are designed to keep all members of our school community safe and ensure that our school can remain open in light of the rapid spread of the Omicron variant.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Taylor
Headteacher

Latest Government Guidance

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges](#)

[Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak](#)