



SCISSETT MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs A Large

2nd January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope everyone has enjoyed Christmas; the New Year celebrations and that your children are looking forward to their return to school. This morning we received some updated **guidance** from the Department for Education and wanted to update you on as soon as possible. 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 new variant.

Testing of pupils after the holiday:

The testing of pupils Year 7 and 8 is an important step in ensuring we can all return to school safely. We will be following the programme sent out before the holidays (copy attached with this email), which ensures that all pupils will be back to school safely and as quickly as possible. 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 ask that all pupils, including those who have consent to be tested in school, complete a lateral flow test before returning to school.

Face coverings:

The guidance we have received today recommends that pupils once again wear a **face covering in classrooms** as well as in communal areas, therefore we are requesting that pupils, staff and visitors wear a face mask whenever they are inside our school building. 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. Face masks are also required on public transport. We understand that people have very mixed views on the use of face masks in schools, shops, public transport and in any other areas where people may be required to wear them but we request that all year groups follow the guidance to keep everyone in school as safe and healthy as possible. Of course, if your child is exempt from wearing a mask there will be no requirement to wear one at any time.

Face coverings should be:

- as unobtrusive as possible, not contain logos and be plain in design.
- a face 'mask' in style. Bandanas/fashion items are not permissible.
- cover both nose and mouth
- not be allowed to dangle around the neck
- not be touched once put on, except when carefully removed before disposal. (Hands should be washed thoroughly or sanitised before and after use)
- be changed when they become moist or damaged



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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 days providing that individuals take lateral flow tests on days 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 an 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.

Remote Teaching and Learning:

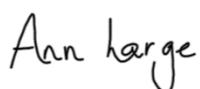
Pupils who are required to self-isolate after a positive test and who remain well will need a device to access the work through our school website. If pupils do not have a device or the necessary equipment, we will endeavour to deliver this to your home as soon as possible. The lessons accessed through our website link are the same lessons all pupils in school will be taught. Pupils who are self-isolating and feel well are expected to follow their normal timetable at home.

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. We will be able to provide equipment for pupils in receipt of free school meals. If pupils need to replace stationary items we will be running the school shop on ParentPay where pupils can place an order and receive the equipment in their classroom. Pupils should also bring their own water bottle that they will be able to fill during the day. The outdoor taps contain fresh tap water so there will be lots of opportunities for pupils to fill water bottles. Mobile phones can be brought to school and your child must place them in the class box on arrival and can be collected at the end of the day.

Whilst following all the government guidelines to ensure the safety of all adults and children we will do everything we can to ensure your child feels welcome and enjoys their learning back in the classroom. Can I thank you once again for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming your child back to school.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Large
Headteacher

