



Brunswick Park Primary School

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Learning for living through respect, support and challenge

To All Parents and Carers

29 November 2021

The Omicron Variant: Infection Control Measures at Brunswick Park

Dear Parents and Carers

As you know, a new variant of COVID-19 called Omicron has now reached England, and the Government has put in place measures that start tomorrow for the general public, and staff and children in secondary schools. Its advice currently is that primary schools should risk assess their specific contexts and put additional measures in place if necessary, including staff and visitors wearing face coverings indoors in corridors and communal areas.

Over the last week at Brunswick Park there has been a steady increase in the number of reported positive cases amongst children. It is for this reason that we have revisited our risk assessment, and from today the following additional infection control measures are reintroduced until 17 December 2021 or until Government guidance changes:

- **All parents, carers, visitors and children will be requested to sanitise their hands on arrival at school. Staff will have bottles of hand gel at the gates and there are wall-mounted sanitiser pumps at the gates, in classroom and around the school. If some children are sensitive to hand gel, they will wash their hands with soap and water instead. Having done this for a long period of time already, we know who these children are;**
- **All staff will wear face coverings in corridors and communal areas unless they are exempt. Staff will not wear them in classrooms;**
- **All visitors will be requested to wear face coverings inside the school building unless they are exempt;**
- **Large indoor gatherings, such as performances, will be kept under review. Outdoor gatherings such as the BPPA Winter Fair will, at the moment, go ahead.**

We continue to maintain the best ventilation we can, monitored by CO² Meters, and our enhanced cleaning regime of regular disinfection of hard and regularly touched surfaces.



The Government's recommendation that Lateral Flow Testing is used twice-weekly to identify asymptomatic cases remains unchanged, and all staff at Brunswick continue to do this. Government guidance issued yesterday recommends that all children do this too:

Testing

All educational and childcare settings should continue to encourage staff and students to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests.

To clarify, Lateral Flow Tests are not to be used instead of PCR Tests if your child has symptoms of COVID-19. If your child is generally unwell, then a Lateral Flow Test can be used, and if the result is positive a PCR Test must then be obtained and your child must isolate until you receive the result. If your child has symptoms of COVID-19, you must get a PCR test in the first instance, inform the school via the Office and isolate your child until you receive the results. If the result is positive, you will be told at the time you receive it when your child can return to school after s/he has recovered. If the result is negative, your child can return to school as soon as s/he is well.

I understand if the reintroduction of these infection control measures feels like a step backwards, and that we have had measures in place for nearly two years. However, we need to remember that nothing in life lasts for ever, and that by being careful now, for the last 15 school days of term, we will be more likely to be able to enjoy a healthy holiday with our families and friends, and not be unwell and/or isolating. Nobody wants a repeat of last year. Thank you as always for your support. Together we have managed to keep the number of cases of COVID-19 at Brunswick extremely low throughout the pandemic, and together we will continue to try our best to keep it that way.

Yours sincerely



Susannah Bellingham
Head Teacher