

Wednesday 8th December

Dear Parents and Carer,

As you will be aware, on Saturday 27th November new restrictions to combat the potential spread of the OMICRON variant of COVID-19 were announced. This announcement was closely followed by the strong recommendation that face coverings should be worn in communal areas, in secondary schools. I would like to thank parents for supporting us with this and ensuring your child comes to school with a face covering. However, I am disappointed that some pupils do not seem to be arriving with one. As of next week, unless a child is exempt, pupils will need to have a face covering, failure to wear one when required will lead to a negative log for 'not taking responsibility. Pupils who bring a face covering will receive a positive log for responsibility. I would once again like to ask all parents to check that their child brings a face covering to school. We do have a stock of disposable ones on order, but to help manage costs and reduce waste, a reusable face covering is preferable.

There has been an update to the guidance for parents and carers for out of school settings; such as wrap around child care, holiday clubs, tuition and community activities, i.e. sports, dance, drama, scouts etc. The main changes include:

- updated advice on isolation to reflect the change in measures for close contacts of suspected or confirmed Omicron cases. Any identified close contact will have to isolate for 10 days;
- updated advice on face coverings to reflect the change in measures— they are now recommended in communal areas in all wraparound childcare and out-of school settings for adults and for children who were aged 11 and over on 31 August 2021;
- updated information in the Vaccinations section on vaccination of under 18 year olds;
- an updated Educational visits section to advise consideration of any international educational visits.

Full details can be found here: [Out-of-school settings: COVID-19 guidance for parents and carers](#)

Positive cases of COVID-19 remain very low in school, in the last week we have only had a further 3 cases, leading to an average of 2 per week since our return in November. Home testing continues to be crucial in identifying asymptomatic cases early. In addition, there are a number of measure that will help mitigate against transmission:

1. Children who are unwell with symptoms, that may be COVID-19, should stay home from school and book a PCR test. They should stay at home until they get a negative PCR test result.
Symptoms include:
 - continuous headache
 - fever
 - sore throat
 - loss of smell
 - sneezing or new/ continuous cough
 - runny nose

2. Children who receive a positive result, using a lateral flow test, should isolate at home and book a PCR test to confirm their result, even if they do not have symptoms.
3. Daily lateral flow testing for secondary school age children, when they have been identified as a close or household contact of a positive case by NHS Test and Trace.
4. Regular lateral flow testing.
5. Thorough, regular hand washing with soap and water, or using hand sanitiser when soap and water are not readily available.
6. Good respiratory hygiene and “Catch it, Bin it, Kill it” messages to encourage children to catch coughs and sneezes in a tissue, and dispose of it in the nearest waste bin.

Testing on return to school

When pupils return to school on Wednesday 5th January, we will ensure all pupils in school receive a test in school during the first few days. In addition to the testing the school will undertake, we ask that all pupils take a lateral flow test on Tuesday 4th January before returning to school.

Vaccination

All eligible pupils aged 12 and over are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine; including boosters. Vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19. They help protect young people and adults, and benefit those around them. Vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on.

To book a vaccination, please visit: [Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination – NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk).

End of term

On Tuesday 14th December, pupils and staff will have the opportunity to take the festive lunch. For only £2.30 our catering team will be serving a selection of roast turkey, halal chicken or a quorn fillet, served with traditional trimmings and followed by either Christmas or chocolate pudding. In addition, we have our school production of the Addams Family running from 6pm on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th December, there are limited tickets available and these can be purchased from reception for £7 (£3 concessions).

Finally, the last day of term is Friday 17th December. This will be a non-uniform day; the theme is festive celebrations. For a £1 donation to charity, pupils can come in their own choice of clothing or even choose to dress up in traditional celebratory or festive themed clothing. There will be an earlier finish, with Year 7, 9 and 10 pupils leaving after their break at 12.00pm and Years 8 and 11 at 12.20pm.

Once again I would like to thank you for your ongoing support, through what continue to be challenging times

Yours sincerely

Mr C Eccles - Headteacher

Tuesday 14th December

School Christmas Lunch

School Production, Addams Family - Matinee for Primary Schools
School Production Addams Family

Wednesday 15th December

Y9 and Y10 Festive Feast Reward

School Production, Addams Family

Thursday 16th December

School Production, Addams Family

Friday 17th December

Non-uniform day for charity

End of term, pupils dismissed from 12.00pm

Monday 3rd January 2022

School closed - Bank Holiday (New Year)

Tuesday 4th January 2022

School closed - Bank Holiday (extra day for Queen's Jubilee)

Wednesday 5th January 2022

Start of the Spring Term

Monday 10th January 2022

Year 10 ILEs start (all week)

Monday 24th January 2022

Year 10 Work Placement week

If you need some help with a translation of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Ak potrebujete pomoc s prekladom, kludne mi napíšte email a ja vám zavolám pri prvej vhodnej príležitosti.
Moja emailová adresa je h.vereczy@oakwood.ac

اگر آپ کو اس خط کا اردو ترجمہ چاہیے تو براہ کرم اوپر دیئے گئے نمبر پر رابطہ کریں۔ شکریہ
s.khan@oakwood.ac

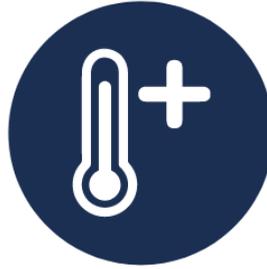
Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council

COLD OR COVID?

DO YOU HAVE ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS?



Continuous
Headache



Fever



Sore
Throat



Loss of
smell



Sneezing or
new/continuous cough



Runny Nose

IT MIGHT NOT BE 'JUST A COLD'

Many of the symptoms of COVID-19 are similar as a cold.
Get a PCR test to make sure it's not COVID-19.

www.rotherham.gov.uk/coronavirus