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Monday 3rd January

Headteacher: Chris Eccles

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start by wishing you and your family a happy New Year and I hope that you have managed to have some time to relax over the holiday season. I would also like to say how much we are looking forward to welcoming all our young people back to school on Wednesday 5th January and to the term ahead.

### **Face coverings**

It was announced by the Department for Education yesterday that the wearing of face coverings in classrooms is recommended on the return to school. This advice is short term only, to build on the existing measures we already have in place, which includes the wearing of face coverings in communal areas. This will be reviewed by the Government on Wednesday 26th January.

We will expect all pupils, except those who are exempt, to wear face coverings during lessons, on corridors during change over times and in the dining area when not seated. Can I urge you to ensure that your child comes to school with their own face covering and takes responsibility for bringing it with them each day. Tutors will check pupils have them when they arrive at school and positive logs will be awarded. Those without their own face covering will be provided with a disposable one and a negative log will be recorded for failing to take responsibility. Although we do have a supply of disposable face coverings, it is much better both economically and environmentally if pupils bring their own reusable one.

### **Vaccination**

I was contacted at the start of the holiday by the NHS vaccination team. They will be returning to school on the 24th and 25th January to issue a second dose of the COVID vaccine to 12 to 15 year olds. I am aware that this means that our Year 10 pupils will not be in school as they are on their week of work placement. However, I have managed to secure a time on the 8th and 9th February for them to have their second dose. More information will follow nearer the time.

### **Testing**

Alongside vaccinations, regular testing is also a key method of reducing the spread of infection. All pupils will receive a school based test in the first few days after their return to school. This **does not** replace home testing before returning to school on Wednesday. Can I ask for your support in ensuring that your child has taken a test, either on Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning, before they return to school and continue to test twice weekly during the rest of this term. Test results should then be reported to [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result)

### **Changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19**

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD 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. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.

### **Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19**

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Finally, if your child has any of the following symptoms; continuous headache, fever, sore throat, loss of smell, sneezing or new continuous cough or a runny nose, please do not send them to school until they have had a PCR test. There is a high possibility they may only have a seasonal cold, but under the current circumstances and to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 it is better to air on the side of caution. If you do need to keep your child off school while they wait for the results of their PCR test, please inform the attendance team and they will record this accordingly.

These continue to be challenging times, but last term at Oakwood High School, we managed to keep cases of COVID-19 infections very low. This was down to both the measures we have in place at school and your ongoing support. I thank you for this.

Yours sincerely

Mr C Eccles - Headteacher

Wednesday 5th January 2022

Monday 10th January 2022

Monday 24th January 2022

Start of the Spring Term

Year 10 ILEs start (all week)

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](mailto:h.vereczy@oakwood.ac)

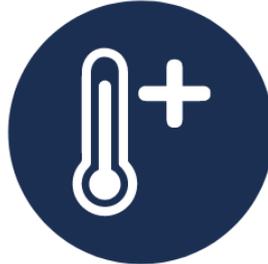
اگر آپ کو اس خط کا اردو ترجمہ چاہیے تو براہ کرم اوپر دیئے گئے نمبر پر رابطہ کریں۔ شکریہ [s.khan@oakwood.ac](mailto:s.khan@oakwood.ac)

# 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](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/coronavirus)