



09 January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you had a peaceful break over the festive period and would like to welcome you back to the new term.

You will be aware of the rapid rise of COVID 19 cases nationally and locally. This is in particular because of the new Omicron variant of COVID 19 and its significant increase in transmissibility.

I write to share recent government announcements as well sharing some of our local measures.

1. Confirmatory PCR tests to be temporarily suspended for positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results

Confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result are to be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11th January. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFD (lateral flow) test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

2. Self-isolation now reduced to 7 days; if your child is confirmed with a PCR test to be COVID 19 positive, self-isolation has been reduced to 7 days rather than 10 days. To be able to return to school, please undertake a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test at home on both day 6 and day 7 at least 24 hours apart. Both tests will have to be negative for COVID 19 before returning.

3. Supporting the school with regular LFD testing at home – Could we please encourage you to test your child at home twice a week to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID 19 at school. This will be critical and help to prevent a large cluster of cases in school and avoid sending whole classes, or year groups home. If your test result is positive, then please email confirmation of this to Enquiries.NPSW@nishkamschools.org

4. Face coverings - All parents and carers picking up or dropping of pupils at the school gate are to wear face coverings.

5. Supporting the school and each other through the vaccination programme - All adults at home and children aged 12 and above are advised strongly, if not already, to be vaccinated. Please let us know if you are unable to get a vaccination appointment and we will do our best to support you with this.



- 6. If you need to contact your child's teacher**, please use Class Dojo to help us minimise face to face contact
- 7. Close contact**
- a. If you have a member of the household who is positive for COVID 19, your child should take a LFD test every day before coming to school. If the LFD is positive, please **do not send** your child to school.
 - b. All contact tracing is undertaken directly by the local public health team or NHS 'Test and Trace' and not the school. Please notify the school to let us know if your child has been identified as a close contact and asked to self-isolate. Please follow their instructions carefully which are likely to include a daily LFD test initially.
- 8. Please continue to remind your child(ren) about the importance of respiratory hygiene; 'catch it', 'bin it', 'kill it'.** We will continue to remind the children of this when in school and encourage them to wash their hands regularly.
- 9. Please do not send your child into school if they display any of the following symptoms.**
- ✓ a high temperature,
 - ✓ a new, continuous cough,
 - ✓ a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste,

Currently no school activities are cancelled, however we will continue to monitor these arrangements on a weekly basis and keep you informed of any changes based on advice and guidance from the United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the Department for Education (DfE).

Should there be an increase of cases across school, we may consider remote learning but will of course aim to give as much advanced warning as possible.

We would like to thank you in advance for your continued support and cooperation throughout these challenging times.

Your sincerely



Mr H S Dhanjal
Headteacher