Bowes Primary School



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Dear Parents,

RE: Temporary measures in place following the emergence of the Omicron variant

As you may already be aware, on Saturday 27th November, the Prime Minister announced new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK.

We are trying our best to keep all of the events in school running, whist protecting our community. We have made the decision to go ahead with our productions to parents, as we understand these are valuable family experiences. Please note, that in the event of the Government/Local Authority guidance changing, we may indeed need to change our plans at very short notice.

In response to the new measures, I would like to share with you our current plans:

Visits into school	 The Reception, Year 2 and Rock Steady performances will go ahead as planned. We have organised for the Year 2 performance to be professionally filmed due to us placing a restriction on the number of parents able to attend. The film will be shared with parents after editing. When attending events at the school, parents <u>must bring a face mask and wear it</u> (unless exempt). We would like to <u>strongly encourage</u> all visitors to school to <u>take a lateral flow test</u> before attending. The Winter Fair will still be going ahead and parents are encouraged to take a lateral flow test before attending.
The Current Guidance	 The current <u>guidance on contact tracing and isolation</u> remains in place. Contact tracing is still the responsibility of NHS Track and Trace. They will contact you directly if you have been in contact with a positive case and need to isolate. Any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status or age. Children must not attend school if they have been asked to self-isolate. Parents should not enter the school grounds if they have been asked to self-isolate.
Travelling Abroad	 The <u>guidance</u> on travelling abroad has changed. If you have planned to travel abroad during the school holidays, please follow the guidance. Please bear in mind that the children start back at school on Tuesday 4th January 2022 and there is now an isolation period.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the following information:

It is recommended that households test twice weekly for COVID-19 using rapid lateral flow tests (LFT). Please <u>click here</u> for more information on how to order rapid lateral flow tests. If your child has a positive LFT result, they should self-isolate in line with the <u>guidance</u>, inform the school and follow up with a PCR test.

Your child **should not** come to school if they have developed <u>COVID-19 symptoms</u>, however mild. If your child develops COVID-19 symptoms in school, they will be sent home and you should follow public health advice. You should get a PCR test to check if your child has COVID-19 as soon as possible, and we would recommend that all family members are tested too. Whilst waiting for the PCR result, your child should continue to self-isolate at home and <u>**not**</u> attend school.

If your child tests positive on either a lateral flow test or a PCR test, your child is required to self-isolate and inform the school ASAP.

We are continuing to follow the control measures we currently have in place and have updated our risk assessment.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school community safe.

Best wishes to you and your families.

Effie Demetriou Headteacher