

Aspiration
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Headteacher: Mrs S Jenner
Chief Executive Officer: Mr P Banks



13th December 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to inform you that there have been a number of positive cases of COVID19 within the school in the last week. As a result, your child may have been in close contact with an individual who has tested positive for the virus that causes COVID-19. It is unlikely but possible that they have been infected. Even if infected children are at very low risk of serious illness from COVID-19. We have been informed that at least one case was confirmed with Omicron. I have taken advice from both the DfE and PHE and reviewed cases and clusters. We have been advised to introduce the temporary wearing of face coverings in the classroom to try to break any further transmission. At present, this measure is only advisable in Year 11, where the majority of cases are but we may need to extend across the year groups should case numbers grow.

In order to reduce the risk of further positive cases within the school community I am asking you to **please arrange for your child to have a PCR test as soon as possible.**

This letter only applies to children who have not tested positive for Covid-19 within the last 90 days, as children who have had Covid-19 within 90 days may test positive again. However, if your child develops new Covid-19 symptoms, they should be re-tested using a PCR test.

PCR test can be arranged online by following this link: [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-a-free-PCR-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus). If you cannot use the online service, call 119. Lines are open 7am to 11pm.

While awaiting a test and the test result your child should continue to attend school. They would only need to self-isolate if the PCR test is positive or symptoms of COVID-19 develop (new continuous cough, high fever or loss of sense of smell or taste).

Please also note that from tomorrow, fully vaccinated (and the under 18s) identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 case should take a daily lateral flow test for 7 days to slow the spread of the virus.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/daily-rapid-testing-for-covid-19-contacts-launches-this-week>

Thank you for continuing to support our school to remain a safe place.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jenner
Head teacher
On behalf of Essex County Council

