



Dear Parents and Carers,

3rd January 2022

Re: Spring Term 2022

We hope you and your families have enjoyed a restful and joyous Christmas break and that your children are looking forward to returning to school.

Testing on return to school and masks

As you will have seen in the news, we are delighted that we'll be able to put 'learning above all' by having students in school for face-to-face lessons from Wednesday 5th January. We will go ahead with testing in an extended form time then get on with lessons as normal from 9.15am.

Given the enormous scale of infection across the country and in Cheshire East (1626 per 100,000 this morning) it's likely that we will identify some positive cases. If that is the case we will be in touch straight away to ask you to collect your son or daughter. Even though we are testing first thing on Wednesday, we also recommend all students test on Tuesday (as long as you have tests at home) just to be on the safe side.

Mask wearing in all classes and indoor settings in school has been brought back by the government for the next three weeks. We have spare masks in school if you do not have one for your son or daughter. We recognise this is hard for children but we have done it successfully before and it is a precaution that should reduce 'Omicron' infection surges. The last thing we want is to close classes for face-to-face teaching, so everything that helps prevent that, we need to fully embrace.

We will have windows open around school and I would encourage all students to get out into the fresh air at break times and lunchtimes to ensure they get as much 'maskless' time as possible.

Isolation following a positive test

The advice from government regarding self-isolation is quoted below. For students who are having to self-isolate, our teachers will communicate through Teams. The vast majority of work will be set through Teams and our linked SharePoint site, which has work for each year group arranged by subject. If students are well enough to work, we strongly encourage them to engage with the tasks set to keep their learning journey moving forwards.

Changes to the self-isolation period (guidance):

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 LFT 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 five, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and the person does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 8."

Attendance focus

Whilst we have a large number of Covid-19 cases in the area, we are determined to keep our focus on good attendance for students who are not unwell. We will continue to be in touch with parents regarding attendance as we know that students being in the classroom is the biggest lever to positive educational outcomes.

Thirst for knowledge and pride in work

Our focus in the classroom this term will be students demonstrating a 'thirst for knowledge' in their work. By this, we mean students being ambitious for themselves and going above and beyond in their lessons and through their homework to understand their course content and take their learning to the next level.

We will be asking students to take their books home in the week commencing 24th January so that they can talk through the knowledge and topics being covered and proudly show their best work off to parents and carers.

And finally

We know it's going to be a challenging term ahead, but we are determined to keep 'learning above all' despite inevitable staff and student isolation periods. We are here to help, so if you have any questions regarding the learning journey for your child, please contact their form teacher in the first instance, preferably by email.

Wishing you and your families a healthy and happy year ahead.

Yours as ever,

Mat Galvin
Headteacher