



Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back! It was lovely to see so many happy smiles and friendly faces this morning!

As you are aware, there are a rising number of Covid cases across the country and across the city of Brighton and Hove. The biggest impact for us all is likely to be reduced numbers of staff at school either because they have Covid or because they are caring for someone who does. This had an effect last term and continues this term already! Sometimes, staff absence cannot be covered as there is no-one available in school or because there is no one available through one of the supply agencies. If the school does not have enough staff to open safely, there would be a return to online learning for classes or bubbles or the whole school, depending on the situation.

Staff are wearing masks in communal areas in the building and, if possible, when they are working closely with children. They are also currently taking twice weekly lateral flow device (LFD) tests to help limit the spread of the virus. We are continuing with regular cleaning and regular hand washing/sanitising across the school.

The rules for isolation are now slightly different. Please take a look at the latest guidance here <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/how-long-to-self-isolate/> so you understand the new guidance. We will continue to send children home who show one of the 3 main symptoms (continuous cough, temperature or lack of taste or smell) and they will not be able to return until they have had a negative PCR test at a test centre. We ask that you send us evidence of this for our records.

To support the health and safety of our school community, we ask that you:

- Wear a mask when entering the school building.
- Take LFD tests twice a week – these are available at many locations or can be ordered online. See <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/> for further information. We are aware there has been a shortage recently but are told that this is improving. The school does not have a supply it can give out to families.
- If your child tests positive on a LFD test, a PCR test must be taken and isolation should begin. They must not come to school if they test positive.
- Don't send your children to school with Covid symptoms.

'Let Your Light Shine' (Matthew 5:16)



Courageous

Disciplined

Aspirational

Honest

Positive

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Headteacher: Ms K Blood

Deputy Headteacher: Miss F Keeling



- Book a PCR test if your child has symptoms. An LFD test is NOT ACCEPTABLE in these circumstances.
- Contact the school if your child test positives either on an LFD test or a PCR test.
- Provide evidence of positive and negative PCR tests.
- Provide evidence of any positive LFD tests and negative ones, if ending isolation early.

Thank you so much for your cooperation – we really appreciate the efforts you make to help keep our community safe. If you have further questions, please ask.

Yours sincerely,

*Kate Blood.*

Ms K Blood  
Headteacher

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