

Monday 29th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID-19 – a Transform Trust update

It has been many months since I needed to write to you concerning COVID-19, but the Government announcements at the weekend prompt me to do so now.

As you will have seen, school life since September has moved to a more normal status, and it has allowed staff to focus on what we do best, providing high quality education to your children. Of course, Covid-19 is around and there has been disruption, but this has been significantly less than last year. We have even had Ofsted inspections in 6 of our schools since September and I can say that the very high quality of education in our schools (despite the pandemic) is now being recognised through these tough independent inspections. I am incredibly proud of our staff and the commitment to the children they have demonstrated throughout.

However, the reason for writing to you is to outline the steps we are taking in schools immediately, and to seek your support with these measures. We would not wish to impose these but accept we need to continue to manage the health & safety of everyone in school. Our measures:

- All staff will wear face coverings in school except in the classroom. Many have continued to do so after restrictions were lifted but we need to mandate this once again
- If we are notified of a child positive case, we will ask for immediate child close contacts to isolate and secure a PCR test. A close contact is likely to be the children sat either side of the positive case, as well as siblings of the positive case. This will be for each school to judge. If the PCR test comes back negative we wish for that child to return to school. If any Covid variant but particularly Omicron gets into the classroom, we wish to have taken every possible step to prevent onward transmission without major disruption to school.
- If we are ever advised that a case of Omicron is in school, then the child close contacts will be asked to isolate for 10 days regardless of their PCR result. This is new national guidance.
- Staff LFD testing continues twice per week.

I do realise that this will inconvenience parents and carers of close contacts, but we hope this will be minimal and I sincerely hope you will continue to support your school as we all come to terms with this new variant of concern.

Your School will have been planning their normal seasonal events and we as a Trust are endeavouring to protect as many of these as possible. If you have cause to be in or around school, please wear a face covering and please support the school by observing all local measures.

We will continually update our guidance as we learn more.

Best Wishes

Rebecca Meredith
CEO