



Friday 10th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

On behalf of us all at Thomas Whitehead CE Academy, after a very busy and anxious few weeks, I would like to thank you for helping us through our COVID-19 outbreak, having your children PCR tested, when they were symptomatic, collecting your children so promptly when you were asked, if they displayed symptoms at school and letting us know the results. I am very pleased to say that the vast majority of tests have come back negative and that is very good news for us all. We are no longer in an outbreak situation at the moment, in any part of the school. I wanted to let you know this, before the weekend, to allay any fears you might have.

The Prime Minister has this week announced his Plan-B for us all, and with the rising numbers in Central Bedfordshire, at a record level, we need to remain vigilant.

For schools, this means that attendance is mandatory, unless your child is unwell.

If your child has any of the following symptoms, please book a PCR test, and keep them at home, until you get a negative result.

- *Cough*
- *Headache*
- *Loss of taste or smell*
- *High Temperature*
- *Sore Throat*
- *Upset Stomach*
- *Feeling Unusually Tired/Fatigue*

If an LFD is positive, please book a PCR test. If the PCR test is positive, your child will need to stay at home for at least 10 days, only to return to school if the symptoms have gone. **If Test and Trace contact you, because you are a close contact of someone infected with the Omicron variant, all close contacts will be required to self-isolate for 10 days.**

To keep everyone safe, the advice, to which we are adhering, is:-

- Staff wear masks in communal areas and may wear masks in class, if they wish
- Staff are requested to test regularly and, if in direct contact with a positive case, are asked to test daily for 7 days
- Limit visitors to the school (who are now asked to do an LFD before entering the school building, and to wear masks)
- Ventilate the classrooms
- Staggered breaks and lunchtimes and assemblies in key stages
- Encourage hand-washing and the use of hand sanitiser
- Encourage parents and carers to keep children at home if they are unwell



- If a child is in Year 3 or above and someone in the family is positive, to test with an LFD each morning for 7 days, before coming to school
- If a child shows symptoms in school, we phone home to ask for the child to be collected as soon as possible and we try to isolate them from others, until they are collected (also to clean the areas/toilets in which they have been)
- We advise parents and carers to order a PCR online or to book an appointment at a test centre, if a child has symptoms and to advise us as soon as possible of the results
- If a parent or carer cannot test or refuses to test, we will ask you to keep your child at home for 10 days
- Follow Health and Safety advice for cleaning classrooms, toilets, bins etc.

If your child is having to self-isolate and you or they have tested positive, please do keep in touch and let us know if we can help. We will of course, be setting your child work, while they are off and you can order a meal (if your child is in receipt of Free School Meals) on Aspens Select, if someone can collect the meal(s) for you.

Finally, if you do decide to go away for the Christmas period and that involves flying abroad, please follow the government guidelines when you return, before sending your children back to school on **Wednesday 5th January 2021**.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Mathison
Headteacher