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"Be the best that you can be"

5th January 2022

Covid-19 Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to a new year and a new term. Whilst we are excited to get the new term started with lots of fantastic learning, I am writing to update you about the ongoing Covid situation.

As I am sure that you have seen in the press over the Christmas break, the country remains at Plan B, due to the current numbers of cases of Covid – the Omicron variant, in particular. In Stoke-on-Trent our cases are slightly below the National rate, but we are being urged to test regularly and get jabbed if eligible.

The Department for Education (DfE) have recently released updated guidance for schools, there are two main changes to actions required for close contacts and isolation periods.

1. Close contacts –

Children over the age of 5 – If a child has been identified as a close contact of someone with Covid-19, they should take a LFT, every day for 7 days. They can continue to attend school, unless they have a positive result or start to feel unwell with symptoms, in which case they should go for a PCR test. We will inform you if your child has been in close contact with anyone at school, if so, they should follow the guidance above.

Children under the age of 5 – If a child is a contact of a confirmed case, they do not need to daily test. If a member of their household is confirmed as having Covid-19, the child should take a PCR test, they can continue to attend school, until the results come back. If the results are positive, then they should follow the isolation advice outlined below. If the child begins to show symptoms, then they should isolate until the results come back.

2. Isolation –

If someone tests positive for Covid-19, an isolation period of 10 days will be advised by NHS Test and Trace, but they have recently added a condition where this isolation period can be ended by day 8. I've had lots of questions about this already, as I know it's confusing when the guidance change, so I'm including a flow chart to demonstrate the new advice – please see below.



