



OUR LADY OF LOURDES
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

THE GREEN
ROTTINGDEAN
BRIGHTON BN2 7HA

www.ourladyoflourdesprimaryschool.co.uk



Monday December 13th 2021

- Update on Covid Guidance
- Contingency planning

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was so good to see so many of you last week at either the nativity plays or school fair and in speaking to many of you, I know how much you valued being back inside the school after such a long time when we couldn't meet up. The reason for my letter today is just to keep you updated with our continued response to the Covid pandemic and the plans that we have moving forward into the New Year.

Currently everyone is looking to see what the impact of the new variant will be and there's some clear advice that continues to be shared with schools:

- **Confirmed cases of Covid (including Omicron):** Confirmed cases of any positive Covid test need to self-isolate for 10 days.
- **Close contacts of Omicron:** Close contacts of any confirmed Covid cases need to get a PCR test and self-isolate if positive. If you are a close contact of an Omicron case, NHS Test and Trace will let you know. All close contacts of confirmed cases of Omicron currently need to self-isolate for 10 days regardless of age and vaccination status. The government hopes to introduce a daily testing scheme to replace isolation for contacts of Omicron cases very soon
- **Parents, carers or members of staff may report that their household has been informed by NHS Test and Trace that they are close contacts of Omicron cases.** All of those contacts currently need to self-isolate for 10 days, regardless of vaccination status or age. They will be sent a PCR test that will confirm whether they are Covid positive and if it is the Omicron variant or not. The government hopes to introduce a daily testing scheme to replace isolation for contacts very soon.
- **Where someone has been contacted by NHS Test and Trace to say they are contact of a Omicron case they will be required to undertake a PCR test that will confirm if it is Omicron or not.** Until confirmation is known, schools are not required to take any further actions other than those you are already doing to manage Covid. If further action is needed, the school will be proactively contacted by the Health Protection Team. They will be in touch with the school and the council will be notified and can support a school that has a confirmed case.

I will keep you all updated on any new cases that we have and children who are isolating will be provided with work to complete. I can only do this if parents and carers inform me directly, so please do email me in confidence if your child has tested positive for the virus.

At the moment, we are running as normal, but, should cases rise I will revert back to the bubbles that we worked within during the summer and move to restrict gatherings and assemblies. It would also be necessary to revert to the staggered starts and end times that we used earlier in the year. I would inform you via letter of any changes within good time.

Tel (01273) 306980 Fax (01273) 308809 Email admin@lourdes.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mr Paul Barber



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At the moment, there is no talk either at either Local Authority or Government level about the closing of schools, however, we are preparing in school to move to remote learning should we need to either because of part or full closure. If you require support in ensuring your child(ren) have access to the internet, please inform the school office, either by calling or using the admin e-mail address.

As before, should we need to teach remotely, we will use Google Classroom and Zoom. We'll be re-sharing the passwords and usernames for Google Classroom with the children before the end of this week – just in case – it would be a good idea to see if there are any issues with logging on at home. Hopefully, being prepared now will alleviate any issues should we need to use the remote platforms, although I really hope all this preparation proves unnecessary.

Huge thanks for your support this year and I really hope you have the very best Christmas with your loved ones.

Kind regards,

Headteacher

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