Dear Parents,

Happy 2022! I hope you have had an enjoyable festive season? I noticed that the children were eager to see their friends again and excited to be returning to school.

As predicted, local Covid cases have surged, doubling in the past week to rates twice as high as the peak last spring.

I want to take the opportunity to thank you for all your support last year and to ask the same again as we start this year to help our community stay safe and well.

This is a summary of our current guidance for the start of term:

* Parents of children who are classed as medically ‘vulnerable’ or who live in a household with an immunosuppressed adult are encouraged to contact their GP to discuss/arrange vaccination for the child.
* If your child has Covid symptoms, however mild, keep them home and inform school; Arrange for a PCR test.
* If your child tests positive on a LFD test, arrange a PCR test and isolate.
* Keep school informed if your child tests positive on a LFD or PCR test – along with the date of symptoms starting and/or a positive test result.
* If your child is a ‘close contact’ at home with a positive Covid case they should stay at home for 5 days and have a PCR test on day 5 before returning **or** they must test negative on a LFD test each day whilst attending school, for 7 days.
* Mask wearing in classrooms is now mandatory for pupils and staff in high schools across the UK. Mask wearing in our classrooms is **optional** for staff and pupils. Staff must wear masks in our communal spaces.
* In the school building, visitors must wear a mask and socially distance from those not in their household. We will be asking our volunteers coming into school to lateral flow test before arriving. We will not be inviting parents into school for events until further notice.

Your ongoing cooperation to help keep everyone safe and our children in school is appreciated.

In the coming weeks, it is likely that there will be staff absences and challenges securing staff to cover. We may have to adapt, with a keen eye on safety, in order to stay open. Please bear with us if this is the case.

In other schools last term, when there was a surge of positive cases with a class, discussions with Public Health led to moving theses classes to home learning for a short period to prevent wider contagion across the school. Please be aware that this is a possibility although the staff and I will work as hard as possible to stop this happening.

K S-R

Headteacher