

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST
Executive Headteacher: Mrs S J Moore

29th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID-19 UPDATE

Following Mr Johnson's announcement on Saturday, the Senior Leadership Team have met at length to discuss the updated guidance from the DfE. The DfE have worked closely with the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) (previously known as Public Health England).

Currently if we reach the UKHSA thresholds for the number of positive cases of COVID-19 amongst children and staff who have mixed closely, we invoke our Outbreak Management Plan. The children who don't have symptoms, or who have not tested positive for COVID-19, don't have to isolate at home. However, we keep the children safely back in class or year group bubbles.

With the identification of the Omicron variant the current advice from the DfE is that we can carry on with our COVID-19 arrangements as they stand at present. However, if a member of our school community is identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, they will be contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace and required to self-isolate immediately. In these circumstances we may be advised by a local UKHSA Incident Management team (IMT) to take further actions in school. They will tell us what we need to do. Please be assured that we have already started considering what changes we would need to make to our COVID-19 arrangements if this situation occurs.

We are definitely seeing a sharp rise in positive cases of COVID-19 amongst our staff and pupils. We have updated our live COVID-19 risk assessment and continue to follow it, and where necessary, our Outbreak Management Plan.

Our decision making about limiting public access to events in school is very much rooted in keeping our pupils and staff safe. May we please remind you that we have requested that only one parent/carer should drop off at and collect from school and that you should wear a mask if you are able.

We continue to follow rigorous hygiene control measures in school and until we have any cases of Omicron we are confident that our COVID-19 arrangements will keep our staff and pupils as safe as possible. Thank you for your continued support and understanding with some difficult decisions that Senior Leaders are having to make in these still uncertain Coronavirus times.

Most importantly, if you or a member of your family have currently tested positive for COVID-19, we are sending our love and strength to you.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Sarah Moore
Executive Headteacher