4th January 2022

Our Response to the Risks of the Omicron Variant of COVID-19

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to nursery. We wish good health and happiness to all of our families in 2022.

COVID 19 main symptoms

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

System of controls

To ensure that nursery is as safe as possible after the holidays we are sharing again our system of controls so it is understood and followed by everyone in the school community.

We will…
1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Please ensure that you…
1. Not send your child to school if they show symptoms of COVID 19. You will get them PCR tested and will let the school know the results as soon as possible via telephone.
2. Collect your child from school immediately if your child shows symptoms of COVID-19 at school.
3. Engage with NHS Test and Trace procedures.
4. Inform the school immediately of any changes to the two emergency contacts details.
5. Continue to pass children into the care of our staff team, as per last term. If we have arranged for you to come into school, a face mask must be worn (unless exempt) because the building has a small footprint, gets congested and has limited ventilation. Disposable masks are provided in reception.

Attendance

Our school is open for all children and face to face attendance at school is required.

The government recognises that the high rates of COVID-19 may cause difficulties with the availability of staff. Our priority is to keep school open with all children continuing face-to-face education. Where workforce issues arise, we may need to use existing teaching, temporary and support staff more flexibly where required to ensure our setting remains open, whilst ensuring that we continue to have appropriate support in place for children with

special educational needs and/ or disabilities (SEND). As children do not need to be kept in consistent groups, we may need to consider combining the age groups of children – within the legal staff ratios. If there is a shortfall of staff the school may need to temporarily reduce the number of children attending face to face education. In the event of a temporary reduction we will prioritise face to face education for children of critical key workers and vulnerable children, where possible. A remote programme of learning will be provided to children who do not attend.

Vulnerable children include:

- those with a social worker
- those with an Education, Health and Care Plan
- a group of children considered locally, including by settings and local authorities, to be 'otherwise vulnerable'
- children known to children's social care services in the past
- children whose home circumstances might be particularly challenging because of domestic abuse, parental offending, adult mental health issues, and drug and alcohol addiction.

Critical Key Worker List

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors:

- Health and social care
- Education and childcare
- Local and national government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

Please check over the page the full list and let our admin team know if you are a critical worker.

Changes to Isolation Rules

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people age between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take a lateral flow test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Individuals may now take lateral flow tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period (at least 24 hours apart). Those who receive 2 negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of isolation.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

David Aldworth

Executive Headteacher

Full Critical Key worker list

Health and Social Care

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and Childcare

This includes:

•childcare

•support and teaching staff

•social workers

•specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach

Key Public Services

This includes:

•those essential to the running of the justice system

•religious staff

•charities and workers delivering key frontline services

•those responsible for the management of the deceased

•journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

Local and National Government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of:

•the COVID-19 response

•essential public services, such as the payment of benefits including in government agencies and arm's length bodies

Food and Other Necessary Goods

This includes those involved in food:

•production

•processing

•distribution

•sale and delivery

•as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

Public Safety and National Security

This includes:

•police and support staff

•Ministry of Defence civilians

•contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic)

•fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)

•National Crime Agency staff

•those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, Communication and Financial Services

This includes:

•staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)

•the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)

•information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response

•key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)

•postal services and delivery

•payments providers

•waste disposal sectors